

Preparation for Worship: Sometimes my heart feels cold, like the snowy ground during a northern winter. Nurture seeds of growth deep inside me, Great Gardener, so I may soon bloom with love and faith.

Please stand as you are able **Bold Items read in unison*

GATHERING - We come together to worship God

Welcome and Announcements

Invocation/Call to Worship: **[This is what the LORD says,] “Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine.”**

Opening Prayer (Isaiah 43:1)

* Opening Hymn – *Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun* Red **#154**

Confession of Sin: **Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess to You that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed. Therefore, we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy and ask You for Christ's sake, grant us forgiveness of all our sins, and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to eternal life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

Response: (sung, #398, Rock of Ages, v.2) **Not the labor of my hands, Can fulfil Thy law's demands; Could my zeal no respite know, Could my tears forever flow, All for sin could not atone; Thou must save, and Thou alone.**

Declaration of Grace

Prayers of the Church (P: Lord in Your mercy C: **Hear our prayer.**)

[Hope] Installation of Officers

WORD – We seek guidance from God's Word

Psalms 19:7-14 Responsive Reading

1 Corinthians 12:12-18,25-27 Epistle

* Luke 4:16-30 * Gospel

* Apostles' Creed: **I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit; born of the virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, dead and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven and is seated on the right hand of God the Father Almighty, from where He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; the Holy Christian Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

* Gloria Patri: (sung, p. 4) **Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

*Offertory (sung, p. 33 for melody) **Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence: and take not Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Your salvation: and uphold me with Your free Spirit.**

Children's Sermon

Hymn of the Day – *Children of the Heavenly Father* Red **#560**

Nehemiah 8 Old Testament

Sermon – *Day of Rejoicing* Pastor Barry Nelson

SENDING We go out to live in & share God's Word

* Closing Hymn – *Thy Word, O Lord, like Gentle Dews* Red **#265**

* Lord's Prayer: **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.**

* Benediction & Doxology: (sung, p. 24 for melody) **Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here be-low; Praise Him a-bove, ye heaven-ly host: Praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost. A-men.**

* Dismissal L: Go in Peace, and Serve the Lord. C: **Thanks be to God.**

A Prayer for Spiritual Growth

When my spiritual vision is foggy, help me to find my way.

When my understanding is incomplete, open my mind and increase my patience.

When my indifference blocks my senses, touch my heart.

When worry or fear raise their voices, speak to my faith.

Let your Spirit permeate my longings as well as my living and my loving. Amen.

—Peggy Ferrell, Prayers and Poems



2025 Hope Council Members

DEACONS	Terri Bitterman & Drew Kurtz
TRUSTEES	Doug Gunnare & Wes Will
SECRETARY/FIN SEC	Mary Gunnare
TREASURER	Mike Fechner
SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPT.	Michelle Kurtz

A special thank you to the outgoing council members Barb Dozark, Russ Dozark, Dave Bitterman and Bob Kurtz for your years of service.

This Week in the Parish - January 26 – February 2

TODAY!	11:45 am	Potluck Dinner at First American
	12:45 pm	First American Annual Meeting
WEDNESDAY	5:00 pm	Confirmation at Hope
SUNDAY	9:00 am	Hope Worship with Holy Communion
	9:30 am	First American Sunday School
	10:00 am	Hope Sunday School
	10:45 am	First American Worship with Holy Communion

Rejoicing in your presence & gifts – January 19, 2025

First American: General—\$1014. Benevolence—\$23. Noisy Offering—Safe Place of Eastern SD—\$51.61. AFLC Home Missions—\$50. Budget per Sunday—\$1742.

Welcome, dear family in Christ. May you sense the care and guidance of Father, Son and Holy Spirit during worship, faith education and Christian fellowship today. Guests, please sign the book in the narthex.



Children of the Heavenly Father was chosen by Dennis Fuerst. "I had to memorize the first two verses in Bible school, and it just so happened to be one of my mother's favorite hymns. Every time we sing it, I think of Bible school and my mother."

Our time of prayer during our corporate worship service is very important. To maintain a current prayer list, requests for non-members will be printed in the bulletin for three weeks. For additional time, please send an update to Pastor Barry. New additions will be underlined, and those scheduled to come off the next week will be in italics.

Health Needs of our Members: Sandy Baier. Doug Bitterman. Allan Hale. Dawsyn Johnston. Del & Sue Neumeister.

Health Needs: Ali Geppert (granddaughter of Russ & Barb Dozark). Stan Hieb (former member of First American). Richard Jones (father of Melissa Schmidt). *Karalin Lyons* (cousin of Katy Brock).

Sympathy: Prayers of comfort for the family and friends of *Linda Harris* (Parkston community), *Wayne Kelly* (uncle of Melissa Schmidt), Lelund Schoon (son of Coreen Friederich) and Shirley Weisser (Tripp Community).

Birthdays: 28 Malorie Walz. 29 Austyn Jo Ziegler. 30 Pam Vetter. 31 Tammy Bietz, Glenn Bueber, Devin Kurtz, Becki Hauser. 1 Michael Will.

Anniversary: 31 Glenn & Tammy Ziegler.

AFLC Churches: Free Lutheran Fellowship, Brownsville, TX; Abundant Life Lutheran, Thief River Falls, MN; Bethel Lutheran, Faith, SD.

Mission: The Association Retreat Center (ARC), Conferences and Camps in Osceola, WI

Our Military Personnel:

Andrew Hanson: Hope member. Stationed in Kentucky; Army.

Austin Lien: nephew of Glenn & Tammy Ziegler. Stationed in Washington; Navy

Tripp-Delmont Parish + Association of Free Lutheran Churches Pastor Barry Nelson

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Today's Readings

January 26, 2025

Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Old Testament

Nehemiah 8:1-3,5-6,8-10

All the people came together as one in the square before the Water Gate. They told Ezra the teacher of the Law to bring out the Book of the Law of Moses, which the LORD had commanded for Israel. ² So on the first day of the seventh month Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, which was made up of men and women and all who were able to understand. ³ He read it aloud from daybreak till noon as he faced the square before the Water Gate in the presence of the men, women and others who could understand. And all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law. ⁵ Ezra opened the book. All the people could see him because he was standing above them; and as he opened it, the people all stood up. ⁶ Ezra praised the LORD, the great God; and all the people lifted their hands and responded, "Amen! Amen!" Then they bowed down and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. ⁸ They read from the Book of the Law of God, making it clear and giving the meaning so that the people understood what was being read. ⁹ Then Nehemiah the governor, Ezra the priest and teacher of the Law, and the Levites who were instructing the people said to them all, "This day is holy to the LORD your God. Do not mourn or weep." For all the people had been weeping as they listened to the words of the Law. ¹⁰ Nehemiah said, "Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is holy to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

Psalm 19:7-14

⁷ The law of the LORD is perfect, refreshing the soul.

The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple.

⁸ **The precepts of the LORD are right, giving joy to the heart.**

The commands of the LORD are radiant, giving light to the eyes.

⁹ The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever.

The decrees of the LORD are firm, and all of them are righteous.

¹⁰ **They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold;
they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the honeycomb.**

¹¹ By them your servant is warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

¹² **But who can discern their own errors? Forgive my hidden faults.**

¹³ Keep your servant also from willful sins; may they not rule over me.

Then I will be blameless, innocent of great transgression.

¹⁴ **May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart
be pleasing in your sight, LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer.**

Lessons – February 2, 2025 Old Testament – Jeremiah 1:4-10,17-19

Psalm 71:1-6 Epistle – 1 Corinthians 12:31b-13:13 Gospel – Luke 4:31-44

Epistle

1 Corinthians 12:12-18, 25-27

¹² Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. ¹⁴ Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many. ¹⁵ Now if the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. ¹⁶ And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸ But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be... ²⁵ so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. ²⁶ If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. ²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord. C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel

Luke 4:16-30

¹⁶ He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written: ¹⁸ "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, ¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." ²⁰ Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. ²¹ He began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing." ²² All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his lips. "Isn't this Joseph's son?" they asked. ²³ Jesus said to them, "Surely you will quote this proverb to me: 'Physician, heal yourself!' And you will tell me, 'Do here in your hometown what we have heard that you did in Capernaum.'" ²⁴ "Truly I tell you," he continued, "no prophet is accepted in his hometown. ²⁵ I assure you that there were many widows in Israel in Elijah's time, when the sky was shut for three and a half years and there was a severe famine throughout the land. ²⁶ Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them, but to a widow in Zarephath in the region of Sidon. ²⁷ And there were many in Israel with leprosy in the time of Elisha the prophet, yet not one of them was cleansed—only Naaman the Syrian." ²⁸ All the people in the synagogue were furious when they heard this. ²⁹ They got up, drove him out of the town, and took him to the brow of the hill on which the town was built, in order to throw him off the cliff. ³⁰ But he walked right through the crowd and went on his way.



First American Annual Meeting

Today at 12:45pm
(Potluck meal following the service)

The following positions are up for election at First American:

Tammy Bietz (Treasurer) is eligible for re-election. She has served 5-terms (15 years), but there is no term limit for the office of Treasurer. Brian Mogck (Deacon), Jordan Ziegler (Trustee), and Dee Mogck (Secretary) have completed two terms and are not eligible

for re-election. Please contact a council member if you would like to nominate anyone for these positions.

FA Volunteers for February (with changes): Head Usher: Mike Schmidt; Ushers: Brian Mogck & Joel Vetter. Sub: Roger Huether. Video: Glenn Ziegler

All About Attitude

“The way you say ‘representative’ to an automated system reflects the real you,” a friend told me. After we laughed at that truth, I realized everything I say matters. Someone is always listening, whether the words and tone are positive or negative. Ephesians 4:29 (NLT) says our language shouldn’t be “foul or abusive” but good, helpful and encouraging. Whether I’m peaceful, hurried, joyful, empathetic, frustrated, celebrating or hurting, I can carefully choose my words (and the attitude behind them). When I’m not ready to speak wholesomely, may God shut my mouth. When a friend needs encouragement, may I listen to God’s prompting. When I need to confront, may I do so lovingly.

Changing how we think — that is, how we speak to ourselves — can be tough. But God wants to transform our reactions and motives, dispelling pride, a lack of confidence and anxiety. In this new year:

I’m alone can become God is with me.

I can’t do this can become Anything is possible with God.

I’m failing can become Just because I’m struggling, it doesn’t mean I’m failing.

I’m not enough can become I’m God’s beloved child.

I’m tired can become God will give me rest.

Don’t stop there. Consider the concerns in your heart and let God give you new words and attitudes.

—Janna Firestone

Nehemiah 8

“Day of Rejoicing”

January 26, 2025

1. When We Hear God’s Word

2. When We Are Convicted by God’s Word

3. When We Believe the Promises of God’s Word