

Preparation for Worship:

Jesus, help me live in love so that, whatever else I do, I will not be “a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal” (1 Corinthians 13:1, NASB).

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 –Beautiful Savior Red #177

Communion Exhortation

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.**

Declaration of Grace

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

* 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.**

Baptism of Chet Charles Jensen

Hymn of the Day – Now I Belong to Jesus Red #546

Installation of Officers

WORD – We seek guidance from God’s Word

Psalms 71:1-6 Responsive Reading

1 Corinthians 12:31b-13:13 Epistle

* Luke 4:31-44 * Gospel

*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

Jeremiah 1:4-10,17-19 Old Testament

Sermon – *The End of Excuses* Pastor Barry Nelson

Hymn – *Master, Jesus, at Thy Word* Red #499

MEAL The Table of Our Lord

* 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.**

Holy Communion

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

* Benediction & Doxology: (sung, p. 24 for melody) **Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; Praise Him, all crea-tures 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.

2025 First American Council Members

DEACONS: Del Neumeister, Wayne Bietz & Darold Bitterman

TRUSTEES: Todd Bietz, Mike Schmidt & Jon Bueber

SECRETARY: Jodi Fuerst

TREASURER: Tammy Bietz

FINANCIAL SECRETARY: Charlene Bietz

SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPT: Kristie Bueber



A special thank you to the outgoing council members Brian Mogck, Dee Mogck and Jordan Ziegler for your years of service.

Chet Charles Jensen will be baptized today at First American. He was born on December 28, 2024 to Christian & Caitlin Jensen. Chet’s sponsors are Logan & Amanda Roth. “We welcome this new little one into the Lord’s family!”



“There are no seven wonders of the world in the eyes of a child. There are seven million.”

—Walt Streightiff

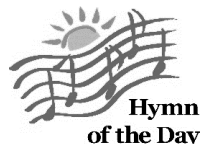
This Week in the Parish - February 2 - 9

WEDNESDAY	5:00 pm	Confirmation at Hope
	7:30 pm	Hope Council
SATURDAY	8:30 am	Men's Fellowship Breakfast at First American
SUNDAY	9:00 am	Hope Worship
	9:30 am	First American Sunday School
	10:00 am	Hope Sunday School
	10:45 am	First American Worship

Rejoicing in your presence & gifts – January 26, 2025

First American: General—\$1839. Benevolence—\$105. Sunday School—\$16.89.
Budget per Sunday—\$2023.19. **Dennewitz Cemetery Fence-Fund** Total: \$938.00

Welcome! Traditionally, the church on this day remembers the presentation of Jesus by his parents in the temple. We too present ourselves to God: our praise, petitions, sorrows and joys. Welcome. Guests, please sign the book in the narthex.



Now I Belong to Jesus was chosen by Christian & Caitlin Jensen in honor of the baptism of their son, Chet Charles.

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. Sue Neumeister.

Health Needs: Mary Bartunek (Tripp community). Phyllis Friederich (daughter-in-law of Peggy Friederich). Ali Geppert (granddaughter of Russ & Barb Dozark). *Stan Hieb* (former member of First American). *Richard Jones* (father of Melissa Schmidt).

Sympathy: Prayers of comfort for the family and friends of Lelund Schoon (son of Coreen Friederich, custodian at FA) and *Shirley Weisser* (Tripp Community).

Birthdays: 3 Chloe Caery, Jessica Johnston. 4 Charlene Bietz. 5 Drake Johnston.

AFLC Churches: Faith Lutheran, El Campo, TX; Our Saviour's Lutheran, Thief River Falls, MN; Salem Free Lutheran, Freeman, SD.

Mission: Our Home in Parkston: Programs offer a comprehensive continuum of residential treatment to youth with varying and unique needs.

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

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300 S. Carpenter PO Box 459
Tripp, SD 57376
Parish office: 935-6941
Parish Email: firsthope@santel.net

Hope Lutheran Church
200 S. Wilson PO Box 127
Delmont, SD 57330
Parsonage: 935-6942
Parish Website: www.FAHope.org

Today's Readings

February 2, 2025

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

Psalm 71:1-6

¹ In you, LORD, I have taken refuge; let me never be put to shame.

² **In your righteousness, rescue me and deliver me;
turn your ear to me and save me.**

³ Be my rock of refuge, to which I can always go;
give the command to save me, for you are my rock and my fortress.

⁴ **Deliver me, my God, from the hand of the wicked,
from the grasp of those who are evil and cruel.**

⁵ For you have been my hope, Sovereign LORD,
my confidence since my youth.

⁶ **From birth I have relied on you; you brought me forth from my
mother's womb. I will ever praise you.**

Epistle

1 Corinthians 12:31b-13:13

And yet I will show you the most excellent way. ¹³ If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. ² If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³ If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. ⁴ Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵ It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶ Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. ⁸ Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. ⁹ For we know in part and we prophesy in part, ¹⁰ but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. ¹¹ When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. ¹² For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. ¹³ And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

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

Lessons – February 9, 2025 Old Testament – Isaiah 6:1-8

Psalm 138 Epistle – 1 Corinthians 14:12b-20 Gospel – Luke 5:1-11

Gospel

Luke 4:31-44

³¹ Then he went down to Capernaum, a town in Galilee, and on the Sabbath he taught the people. ³² They were amazed at his teaching, because his words had authority. ³³ In the synagogue there was a man possessed by a demon, an impure spirit. He cried out at the top of his voice, ³⁴ “Go away! What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!” ³⁵ “Be quiet!” Jesus said sternly. “Come out of him!” Then the demon threw the man down before them all and came out without injuring him. ³⁶ All the people were amazed and said to each other, “What words these are! With authority and power he gives orders to impure spirits and they come out!” ³⁷ And the news about him spread throughout the surrounding area. ³⁸ Jesus left the synagogue and went to the home of Simon. Now Simon’s mother-in-law was suffering from a high fever, and they asked Jesus to help her. ³⁹ So he bent over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her. She got up at once and began to wait on them. ⁴⁰ At sunset, the people brought to Jesus all who had various kinds of sickness, and laying his hands on each one, he healed them. ⁴¹ Moreover, demons came out of many people, shouting, “You are the Son of God!” But he rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew he was the Messiah. ⁴² At daybreak, Jesus went out to a solitary place. The people were looking for him and when they came to where he was, they tried to keep him from leaving them. ⁴³ But he said, “I must proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns also, because that is why I was sent.” ⁴⁴ And he kept on preaching in the synagogues of Judea.

** Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord. * C: Praise to You, O Christ.*

Sermon Text: Old Testament

Jeremiah 1:4-10,17-19

⁴ The word of the LORD came to me, saying, ⁵ “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.” ⁶ “Alas, Sovereign LORD,” I said, “I do not know how to speak; I am too young.” ⁷ But the LORD said to me, “Do not say, ‘I am too young.’ You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. ⁸ Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you,” declares the LORD. ⁹ Then the LORD reached out his hand and touched my mouth and said to me, “I have put my words in your mouth. ¹⁰ See, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant.” ¹⁷ “Get yourself ready! Stand up and say to them whatever I command you. Do not be terrified by them, or I will terrify you before them. ¹⁸ Today I have made you a fortified city, an iron pillar and a bronze wall to stand against the whole land—against the kings of Judah, its officials, its priests and the people of the land. ¹⁹ They will fight against you but will not overcome you, for I am with you and will rescue you,” declares the LORD.



The Numbers Are In!

Praising God for a record-breaking collection of shoebox gifts in 2024

Your incredible efforts in 2024 yielded 11,927,439 Gospel Opportunities that were packed, collected, and prayed over, including 10,574,805 in the U.S., an all-time high. Praise God!

And in East River South Dakota, there were 15,652 shoeboxes collected, which includes our 150 at First American and 40 at Hope. There were also 345 Build A Shoebox Online purchased as well, for a total of 15,997 for the East River SD Area Team.

Hopes Great and Small

“The Christian lives with three hopes, two great and one small,” writes Bryan Wolfmüller. In his “Wednesday What-Not” blog, the pastor explains: “Our first great hope is in Christ our Redeemer, whose death and resurrection are our forgiveness, life, salvation and great hope. Our second great hope is in Christ the King returning soon to judge the living [and] the dead, and establish the new heaven and earth where the righteous dwell. This is our hope for the resurrection and the life of the world to come.”

Amazingly, there’s more! “Sandwiched between these two great hopes is our small hope, our lesser hope, our hope for tomorrow, our hope that we might begin to love and serve our neighbor, and do some little something to bless the people around us,” Wolfmüller continues. “This is the hope that energizes our vocations, that motivates our love, and that is the reason we make New Year’s resolutions. We hope that we might do something a little bit better tomorrow than we did yesterday.”

The pastor concludes, “If this was our only hope, it would be despair. But sandwiched between the love of Christ and the joy of the resurrection, this little hope is wonderful, and certainly not to be despised.”

Jeremiah 1:4-10,17-19

“The End of Excuses”

February 2, 2025

1. Trust in God’s Commission

2. Trust in God’s Word

3. Trust in God’s Protection