

First Sunday of Advent November 30, 2025

First English Lutheran Church 402 N. 3rd Ave., Wausau, Wisconsin 54401-4448 715-842-5727

https://www.firstenglishlutheranwausau.org

A Congregation of The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Pastor: Reverend Mary E. Zupansic Minister of Music: Daniel Larson

Pianist: Hal Osborn

Parish Administrator: Debra Kluetz

WELCOME TO FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Whether you are joining us in person of online, we are blessed to have you worshipping with us today. We pray that our time of worship together further encourages and strengthens our call to discipleship. If you are a visitor, you are invited to fill out the neon green Visitor Card and give it to an usher or greeter. Please come to worship with us again!

Large print bulletins are available in the narthex. A 'Parents' Room' is located off the narthex w/ changing table and restroom. Restrooms are in the narthex lunge and at the bottom of the east/west stairwells. A Handicapped Accessible restroom is available through the double doors on the east side (lectern side) to the front of the worship space.

Assistive listening devices are available. Please ask an usher for assistance. Busy Bags—Child Activity Kits for our little disciples are available in the narthex on the Busy Bag Trees in the narthex. Each bag contains a coloring book, crayons, story book, and quiet games. Please return the bags to the tree after worship.

LEADING AND ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Presiding Minister: Pastor Mary E. Zupansic

Assisting Minister: Connie Vaningan Acolyte: Kynslei Koehler-Dahlquist

Organist: Daniel Larson

Greeters: Amy Abitz, Eli Akey, Steve Wendorf Ushers: Gene & Lynn Schulz, Deb Kluetz

Communion Assistant: Sherri Bagby Communion Set-up: Deb Kluetz

Communion ware Washers: Lonnie & LeAnn Lewis

Coffee Hour Treats: Kalynn Pempek

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

The new church year begins with a wake-up call: Christ is coming soon! In today's readings both Paul and Jesus challenge us to wake from sleep, for we know neither the day nor hour of the Lord's coming. Isaiah proclaims the day when God will gather all people on the holy mountain and there will be no more war or suffering. Though we vigilantly watch for the promised day of salvation, we wait for what we already have: Christ comes among us this day as the word and meal that strengthens our faith in the promises of God.

PRELUDE O Come, O Come, Emmanuel ... Charles Lindberg

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, whose home is heaven and earth, whose salvation is sure.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Long-expected God,
we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you can provide.
We reach for swords and spears,
reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war.
We become impatient while waiting and weary of keeping awake.
Free us from self-reliance,
and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors.
Increase our trust in God's timing,
and awaken us to your advent among us,

that we may abound in the hope you have promised. Amen.

God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own righteousness.

 → You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG

The King Shall Come

ELW #260



- 1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light tri um-phant breaks,
- 2 Not as of old a lit-tle child, to bear and fight and die,
- 3 Oh, bright er than the ris ing morn when Christ, vic to rious, rose
- 4 Oh, bright er than that glo rious morn shall dawn up on our race
- 5 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light and beau ty brings.



when beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills and life to joy a - wakes. but crowned with glo - ry like the sun that lights the morn-ing sky. and left the lone-some place of death, de - spite the rage of foes. the day when Christ in splen-dor comes, and we shall see his face. Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo - ple pray: come quick-ly, King of kings.

Text: John Brownlie, 1859-1925

Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davisson, Kentucky Harmony, 1816

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE - LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE (the Hope Candle)





in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 2:1-5

A reading from Isaiah.

"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

¹ The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

² In days to come the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it.

³ Many peoples shall come and say,

⁴ He shall judge between the nations and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war any more.

⁵ O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 122 (responsively)

- ¹ I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD."
- Now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.
- ³ Jerusalem is built as a city that is at unity with itself;
- ⁴ to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD, the assembly of Israel, to praise the name of the LORD.
- ⁵ For there are the thrones of judgment, the thrones of the house of David.
- ⁶ Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May they prosper who love you.
- ⁷ Peace be within your walls and quietness within your towers.
- 8 For the sake of my kindred and companions, I pray for your prosperity.
- ⁹ Because of the house of the LORD our God, I will seek to do you good."

SECOND READING: Romans 13:11-14

A reading from Romans.

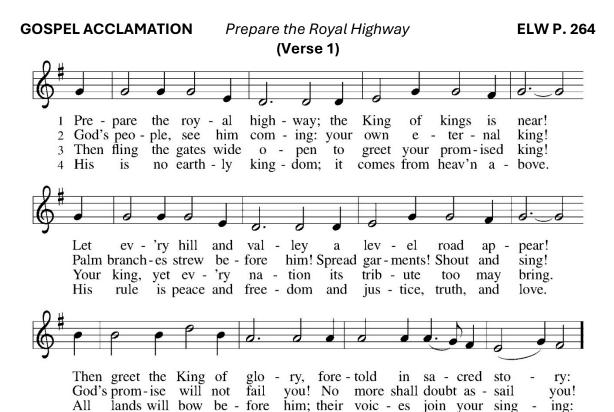
¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³ let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

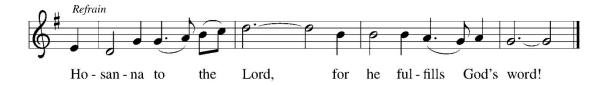
So

let vour praise be



sound-ing for kind-ness so

a - bound - ing:



Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship* Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent. Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

GOSPEL: Matthew 24:36-44

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

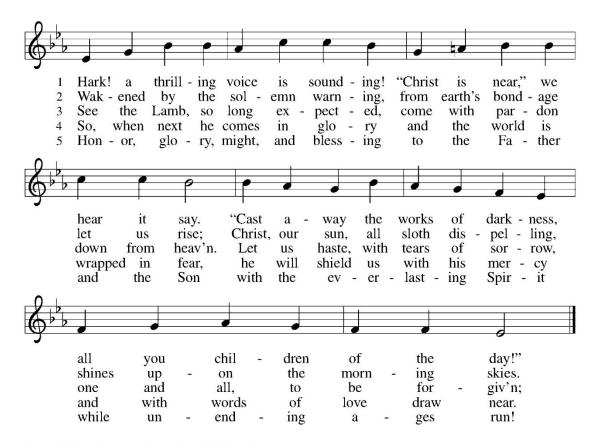
[Jesus said to the disciples,] ³⁶ "About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷ For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰ Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴² Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³ But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Mary E. Zupansic



Text: Latin hymn, 1632; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–1878 Music: MERTON, William H. Monk, 1823–1889

CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;

he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,

the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

 ${\it Each petition ends with the following response}.$

God of grace, hear our prayer.

Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming ...Jeanne Cotter

OFFERING PRAYER

Nourishing God,

you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

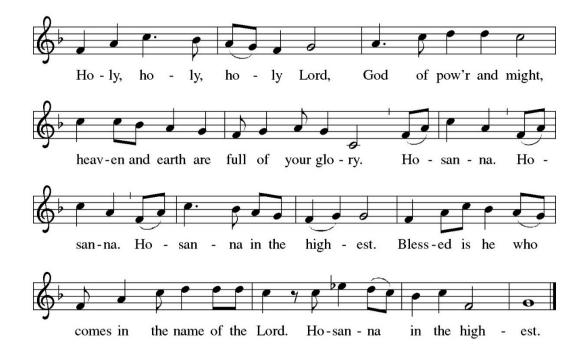
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.
You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,
through whom you will also make all things new
in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY ELW P. 144



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, the Beginning and the End,

our Salvation and our Hope,

we praise you for creating a world of order and beauty.

When we brought on chaos, cruelty and despair,

you sent the prophets to proclaim your justice and mercy.

At this end of the ages your Son Jesus came to bring

us your love and to heal all the suffering world.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the 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.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore,
his life, death, and resurrection,
we await his coming again
in righteousness and peace.

Send your Spirit on us
and on this bread and wine we share:
strengthen our faith,
increase our hope,
and bring to birth the justice and joy of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church,

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

both now and forever. Amen

Our Father, who art in heaven,

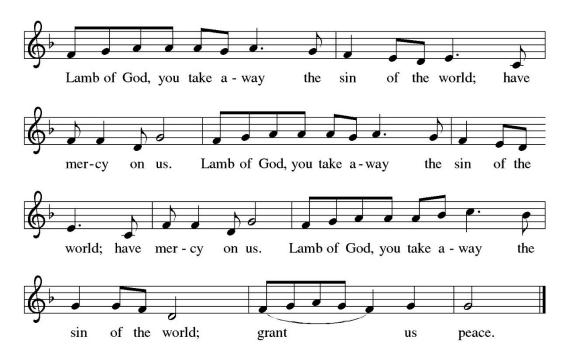
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Here is life. God is with us.

Come, receive what God has promised.

Thanks be to God.

LAMB OF GOD ELW P. 146



COMMUNION HYMNS

Christ, Be Our Light What Feast of Love ELW #715 ELW #487

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

God our host,

at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness.

Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE Holy One, Now Let Your Servants Go In Peace



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SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

May God who comes among us,
Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,
grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness,
and good news to share today and always. **Amen.**



Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907 Music: HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG, Swedish folk tune

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Keep awake. Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE Toccata on 'Hyfrodol' ...Rowland Huw Prichard

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PASTORAL CARE

If you would like a visit from Pastor Mary, or if you have a pastoral emergency, please call Pastor on her cell phone 920-671-4338.

NEW OFFICE EMAILS

Pastor Mary: pastor@firstenglishlutheranwausau.org
Deb: parishadmin@firstenglishlutheranwausau.org

These are now working emails. Please send all correspondence to these addresses.

ADULT FORUM

You are invited to join in the Fireside Room at 10:15 today. This week's *Wired Word* discussion topic is the Role of Artificial Intelligence in Churches and by Pastors. Feel free to bring your coffee and treats with you.

NEW MEMBERS GATHERING

If you have been worshipping with us at First English for a while, we invite you to become a new member / disciple! A 'New Member Gathering' is scheduled for next Sunday, December 7th following the 9 a.m. worship service. Join us for a time to get to know each other, meet some of our leadership at First English, and learn about ministry opportunities. Please let Pastor Mary know that you are interested!

COMMITTEE NIGHT

is this Tuesday, December 2, 6:30 p.m. We'll gather in Fellowship Hall.

A GIFT

has been given by Jane & Wayne Schalow in memory of Alan Sexter.

CHOIR ANTHEM

for Advent 4 (Dec. 21, 9:00am service)

Dan will have an Advent anthem ready to rehearse after Thanksgiving. All interested singers can come and practice the anthem after the worship on Sunday mornings, **beginning this morning** (10:00-10:30) and on Tuesday nights beginning on Dec. 2, after Bell Choir practice (6:45-7:15 p.m.). Choir members will meet up front.

POINSETTIAS

We will again grace the chancel and altar area with poinsettias for our Christmas services. If you would like to purchase a poinsettia(s), there are forms in the narthex and the church office. The price is \$10.00 per plant. **Orders must be in by Dec. 10.**

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS DEVOTION BOOKS...

are available in the narthex and church office. These devotional books, entitled *Humble and Holy* start on the First Sunday of Advent (Nov. 30) and go through The Day of Epiphany on Jan. 6. The devotional provides blessings and prayers to enrich your preparations and celebrations during the Advent and Christmas seasons. Quantities are limited so be sure to pick up your copy.

AN OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE

Our annual Advent Hunger Offering will be received during the season of Advent. The need for such an offering remains so important. The special Hunger Appeal offering envelopes are available on the narthex tables. Let your gratitude and love flow freely during this season of giving with an extra gift to ELCA World Hunger. You may place your gifts in the offering plate on Sunday morning or Thursday evening. Thank you for caring and sharing!

WINTER SNOW SHOVELING VOLUNTEERS

We're looking for volunteers again this year to help with shoveling at First English as well as keeping the sidewalks salted and clear of ice. We have contracted with a local company to plow the parking lot and sidewalks on Sundays. If you're able to help with snow blowing our entryways and sidewalks during the week, please sign up on the form in the narthex.

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Sunday, November 23: 90 Thursday, November 27: Thanksgiving – no worship **SUNDAY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE** Sunday, November 23: 8

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY of Wausau

is rushing to finish house number 77 so the family can move in before Christmas! If you are free on some weekday mornings and like to paint, consider signing up at give.habitatwausau.org/volunteer calendar

Thursday, Dec. 4, 8-12, basement drywall and start painting

Wednesday, Dec. 10, 8-10, interior painting Thursday, Dec. 11, 8-12, interior painting

Monday, Dec. 15, 8-2, interior house cleaning

FREE LITTLE PANTRY

The Food Pantry Transition Team is looking for a willing woodworker who would build a Free Little Pantry for First English to provide food for our neighborhood friends in need of assistance.

A materials list, diagrams, and specific directions will be

provided. In addition, the FELC Council will purchase and provide the needed materials. Please contact the church office if you are able to help us make this neighborhood outreach a reality.



A CHRISTMAS MEDITATION

Preparing for the holidays can be so stressful. Is your "to do" list way too long? Well, we've got a sure way to give you a break from all that. You are invited to enjoy some "down time" right in our sanctuary...Sunday, Dec. 21, 3:00-5:00 p.m. Dan Larson will provide music on our baby grand piano for a time of meditation, prayer, quiet reflection and the beautiful music of the season.

Come when you can – leave when you must. If you wish, you may make a freewill donation.

2025 OFFERINGS

In order to get a complete record of your financial contributions for the calendar year 2025, please have your offerings in **before Dec. 31, 2025.** The books for 2025 will close Dec. 31. Any 2025 offerings received after the 31st will be applied to your 2026 giving. Thank you!

AS YOU BEGIN

your holiday decorating and find that you have Christmas lights that don't work, don't throw them out. Bring them to the narthex coatroom and place them in the container. They will be taken to Habitat for Humanity, then sent for recycling. Since 2014 the Habitat Wausau Team has collected 46,355 pounds of holidays lights. The lights were recycled and kept out of our local landfill. The proceeds from the collection of holiday lights help Habitat Wausau purchase needed tools for the construction team.

YOUTUBE

First English has a new temporary YouTube channel. This affects the live-streaming of our Sunday and special worship. So <u>temporarily</u>...in order to view our services through live-streaming, here's what you do: Go to the **YouTube Channel.** In the search space, put **firstenglishwausau**. Then click on **First English Lutheran Church.** If you have any questions, feel free to call the office.

TREASURE SALE NEWS...

Items for next year's Treasure Sale are coming in on a regular basis. We are accepting clean clothes in good condition, housewares, collectibles, books, linens, DVDs, CDs, and more. If donating linens, please mark them with what size they are. This is very helpful.

We will accept small appliances in working condition, and furniture. Your donations can be brought downstairs in the hallway by the Sunday School rooms. There is a sign on the door. Thank you so much for your donations!

AFTER WORSHIP COFFEE TREATS

Check out the new sign-up sheet in the narthex if you would like to provide afterworship treats on Sundays. We extend our worship experience by staying after worship to enjoy some fellowship with each other, especially with a treat! You don't have to provide fancy treats, and there is always someone around to help with making the coffee! Thanks!

PEEK AT THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 30-DECEMBER 7, 2025

Sunday, Nov. 30: 9:00 a.m. Worship

10:00 a.m. Rehearsal for Advent choir anthem

10:15 a.m. Sunday School

Tuesday, Dec. 2: 9:00 a.m. Quilting

6:00 p.m. Handbell Choir 6:30 p.m. Committee Night

6:45 p.m. Rehearsal for Advent choir anthem

Thursday, Dec. 4: 6:00 p.m. Worship 6:30 p.m. NA Meeting **Sunday, Dec. 7:** 9:00 a.m. Worship

10:00 a.m. Rehearsal for Advent choir anthem

10:15 a.m. Sunday School

10:15 a.m. New Member Gathering

LET US REMEMBER IN PRAYER...

John Otto

Karl Otto

Judy Beemer (sister of Roger DeWitt)

Ron Wiese (friend of the DeWitt family)

John (family of Klapperich and Wynn)

John & Pat Alters (parents of John & Mike)

Diane (Aunt to Angela Greenfield & Jarek Nelson)

Heidi Olson (daughter of Duane & Darlene Chapman)

Janet Alters (Family member of Mike & Joan, Jack & Kim, Erin, Spencer and Ella)

Linda Kittel

Tracey (friend of Sheri Fochs)

Josh (friend of Matt & Lori Heyne)

Homebound / Assisted Lived: Kathie Peterson (Primrose), Dolores Hintz (Sylvan Crossings), Sue McKee (Rennes in Weston), Diane Zuelke (Mountain Terrace), Michelle Detert (Cady Home), Ila Barttelt (Rennes), Joyce Utecht (Rennes), Gary Klingbeil (Wood Aven), Rick Petzke (Crossroads Care Center in Weyauwega) Dennis & Laurayne Nicoliasen (Rennes)
Geraldine Hopperdietzel
Audrey Fellbaum
Delphine Saeger

<u>Daily Prayers Offered for</u>: Bishops Anne Edison-Albright (*East Central Synod*) and Yehiel Curry(*Presiding Bishop of the ELCA*), and all those who work in the East Central Synod Office; ShyAnn and Peter Egwalata (*in Uganda*)

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Andrew, Apostle Sunday, November 30, 2025

The first of the disciples to be called by Jesus, Andrew quickly began to bring others to the Savior, including Simon Peter. The Bible also shows him leading some Greeks to meet Jesus, and he brought forward the boy with five loaves and two fish, with which Jesus fed thousands.

John of Damascus, theologian and hymnwriter, died around 749 Thursday, December 4, 2025

A monk in an abbey near Jerusalem, John wrote many hymns as well as theological works. One of his works, The Fount of Wisdom, remained influential for centuries.

Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, died around 342 Saturday, December 6, 2025

Little is known about Nicholas, except that he was a bishop in present-day Turkey. According to legend, he was famous for his giving to the poor, and so has become a symbol of anonymous gift-giving.