



# First Lutheran Church

Sunday, April 26, 2026 | Fourth Sunday of Easter



Today is sometimes called "Good Shepherd Sunday." Jesus is called the "gate" of the sheep in today's gospel. The risen Christ opens the way to abundant life. He anoints our heads with oil and guides us beside the still waters of our baptism. Each Sunday he spreads a feast before us amid the world's violence and war. We go forth to be signs of the resurrection and extend God's tender care to all creation.

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS INVOCATION

### OPENING SONG | *House of the Lord*

We worship the God who was, we worship the God who is. We worship the God who evermore will be. He opened the prison doors, He parted the raging sea. Our God, He holds the victory.

#### **Chorus: There's joy in the house of the Lord.**

***There's joy in the house of the Lord today, and we won't be quiet. We shout out Your praise!***

***There's joy in the house of the Lord.***

***Our God is surely in this place, and we won't be quiet. We shout out Your praise!***

***Oh, oh, oh, we shout out Your praise!***

We sing to the God who heals, we sing to the God who saves. We sing to the God who always makes a way. 'Cause He hung up on that cross, then He rose up from that grave. My God's still rolling stones away.

#### **Chorus 2: There's joy in the house of the Lord.**

***There's joy in the house of the Lord today, and we won't be quiet.***

***We shout out Your praise! There's joy in the house of the Lord.***

***Our God is surely in this place, and we won't be quiet. We shout out Your praise!***

We were the beggars, now we're royalty. We were the pris'ners, now we're running free. We are forgiven, accepted, redeemed by His grace. Let the house of the Lord sing praise!

'Cause we were the beggars, now we're royalty. We were the prisoners, now we're running free. We are forgiven, accepted, redeemed by His grace. Let the house of the Lord sing praise!

#### **Chorus 2: There's joy in the house of the Lord.**

***There's joy in the house of the Lord today, and we won't be quiet.***

***We shout out Your praise! There's joy in the house of the Lord.***

***Our God is surely in this place, and we won't be quiet. We shout out Your praise!***

***(Repeat Chorus 2)***

Oh, oh, oh, we shout out Your praise!

## CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

P: Merciful God, **C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love; in your great compassion blot out our offenses. Release us from the guilt and shame we carry, and renew a right spirit within us. Teach us your ways, and uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

### KYRIE | *Create in Me a Clean Heart* | ELW #186

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 to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.

### HYMN OF PRAISE | *Glory be to God* | ELW pg 204, vs 1

Glory be to God in heaven; peace, goodwill to all the earth. Mighty God of all creation, Father of surpassing worth. We exalt you, we adore you, we lift high our thanks and praise. Saints and angels bow before you, here on earth our songs we raise.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

*1 Corinthians 13:12-13 ('The Message')*

<sup>12</sup>We don't yet see things clearly. We're squinting in a fog, peering through a mist. But it won't be long before the weather clears and the sun shines bright! We'll see it all then, see it all as clearly as God sees us, knowing him directly just as he knows us! <sup>13</sup>But for right now, until that completeness, we have three things to do to lead us toward that consummation: Trust steadily in God, hope unswervingly, love extravagantly. And the best of the three is love.

*Ephesians 2:8-10*

<sup>8</sup>For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—<sup>9</sup>not the result of works, so that no one may boast. <sup>10</sup>For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we may walk in them.

*2 Timothy 1:6-7*

<sup>6</sup>For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands, <sup>7</sup>for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline.

*Luke 9:23-25*

<sup>23</sup>Then he said to them all, "If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. <sup>24</sup>For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will save it.

R: The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** | ELW pg. 205

Alleluia! Lord and Savior: open now your saving word.  
Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred.  
Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

**GOSPEL** | *Matthew 28:16-20*

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 28th Chapter. **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>16</sup>Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. <sup>17</sup>When they saw him, they worshiped him, but they doubted. <sup>18</sup>And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup>Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit <sup>20</sup>and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

**SERMON** | Pr. Joe Skogmo

**HYMN OF THE DAY** | *Children of the Heavenly Father* | ELW #781

1. Children of the heav'nly Father safely in his bosom gather;  
nestling bird nor star in heaven such a refuge e'er was given.
2. God his own doth tend and nourish, in his holy courts they flourish.  
From all evil things he spares them, in his mighty arms he bears them.
3. Neither life nor death shall ever from the Lord his children sever;  
unto them his grace he showeth, and their sorrows all he knoweth.
4. Though he giveth or he taketh, God his children ne'er forsaketh;  
his the loving purpose solely to preserve them pure and holy.

## BLESSING OF GRADUATES

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

P: Lord in your mercy, **C: Hear our prayer.**

### LORD'S PRAYER

**C: 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.**

### SHARING OF PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

### OFFERING / NOISY OFFERING | *April: Lakes Area YES! Network*

#### OFFERTORY SONG | *Holy, Holy, Holy* | ELW #473

1. Holy, holy, holy, my heart, my heart adores you.  
My heart is glad to say the words: You are holy God. **(Sing 2x)**

#### OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: Loving God, **C: receive this offering for the building up of your kingdom: the proclamation of your word and the loving of our neighbor. Amen.**

## BENEDICTION

### SENDING HYMN | *What a Friend*

Everybody has trials and temptations.  
Everybody knows heart break, isolation.  
But we can lay our burdens down, lay our burdens down.

**Chorus:   *What a friend we have in Jesus.  
              East to west my sins are gone.  
              I see grace on every horizon,  
              And forever and ever His heart is my home.***

Everybody has fears. Everybody got worries.  
Everybody knows sorrow, devastation.  
But we can lay our burdens down, lay our burdens down.

#### **Chorus**

#### **Bridge 2 times:**

*No more betrayal for He is faithful.  
He fills me up and my cup runneth over.  
No more betrayal for He is faithful.  
How He has proven it over and over.*

#### **Chorus 2 times**

Forever and ever His heart is my home.

## SENDING

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### MEMBERSHIP

Interested in becoming a member of FLC? Scan the QR code for more information.



New members are welcome all year, however, our **next New Member Welcome is May 3 & 6.**

### THEOLOGY ON TAP

April 30 @ 7pm  
At Bucks Mill Brewing

### THE CHOSEN BIBLE STUDY

Tuesdays at 1 pm. in the library  
Through May 5.  
Now watching season 2!

### UPCOMING DATES

May 3 | Confirmation Sunday  
May 3 & 6 | New Member Welcome  
May 6 | Last Day of Oasis  
May 17 | Annual Meeting  
May 24 Outdoor worship begins  
June 22—25 | VBS

### FLC WOMEN'S BRUNCH

Saturday May 9, 9:30am  
NOTE DATE CHANGE

All FLC women are invited ~ bring your kids ~ bring a friend! A freewill offering will be taken to benefit the Boys & Girls Club of DL. Bring an item for the hygiene kits. Door prizes! Food! Fun!

### BLESSING CLOSET NEEDS

Currently we are need of: spring/summer clothing, reusable shopping bags/tote bags & blankets.. Donations can be brought to the church office.  
Thanks!

### PERSONAL CARE KITS

The Circles are collecting items to make Personal Care Kits through the end of May. Items needed are: *nail clippers, adult toothbrushes, combs, bath sized, bar soap.* A collection box is available outside of the church office.

### Prayers for God's People

Ongoing prayers for:  
*Bill Wegschied, Gretta Frisch, Judy Wood, Larry Kjono, Tyler Wilson, Dave & Pam Nustad, Cami Eckhoff, Kathy Larson, Marlys Douglas, Dorothy Havercamp, Vicky Havercamp, Dianne McKinney, Ruth Olsen, and Haley & Mel Johnson.*

*Prayers of comfort for those who mourn the loss of a loved one, including the families of Don Johnson, Ramona Amundson, and Dolly Cleveland.*



**Today's altar flowers have been given in honor of our graduating high school seniors. Congratulations**

**Class of 2026!**

## Youth & Family

### HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

If you are applying to ELCA Lutheran Colleges, there is a scholarship available. Applications forms are in the office & are due April 30.

### KID'S FELLOWSHIP

Sundays @ 10:30 for all kids grade prek-5. Last day >> May 3!

### HIGH SCHOOL FREE LUNCH

May 14 & 28 @ 11:30am  
At Pizza Ranch

### HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER TRIP

July 19-23  
To Wolf Ridge, Finland, MN  
Registration deadline, May 14.

### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

June 22-25  
Open to kids completing K-5th grade. Cost: FREE!  
Registration now open.



### SUMMER CAMP

Are you planning on sending your kids to camp this summer?



Scholarships are available for Luther Crest or Camp Emmaus. Scan QR code for more info.

### Thanks for worshipping with us!

Lead Pastor: Joe Skogmo  
Associate Pastor: Matthew Rossler  
Music Director: Karen Bimberg

Prefer electronic giving? Scan the QR code to give online. Then, drop the **green laminated slip** in the offering plate.

### GIVE ONLINE

