



First Lutheran Church

Sunday, March 15, 2026 | Fourth Sunday in Lent



Baptism is sometimes called enlightenment. The gospel for this Sunday is the story of the man born blind healed by Christ. "I was blind, now I see," declares the man. In baptism God opens our eyes to see the truth of who we are: God's beloved children. As David was anointed king of Israel, in baptism God anoints our head with oil, and calls us to bear witness to the light of Christ in our daily lives.

PRELUDE WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS INVOCATION

GATHERING HYMN | *Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound* | v. 1, 3, 5 ELW #779

1. Amazing grace! how sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
was blind, but now I see.

3. Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come;
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.

5. When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we'd first begun.

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 the newness of life through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

HOLY BAPTISM

Names of Baptized: Faylon Tipton Christen | Parents: Matthew and Teaira Christen
Sponsors: Cody Christen and Keanna Groft

PROFESSION OF FAITH

P: I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus,....

C: We renounce them.

P: Do you believe in God the Father?

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

C: 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.

P: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

All: 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.

MUSICAL MESSAGE | *Jesus, Lover of My Soul* - Arr. Karen L. Buckwalter | Dotz Johnson, flute, Alleluia Ringers

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, **C: and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

FIRST READING | 1 Samuel 16:1-12

¹ The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." ² Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.'" ³ Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do, and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." ⁴ Samuel did what the LORD commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, "Do you come peaceably?" ⁵ He said, "Peaceably. I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. ⁶ When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely his anointed is now before the LORD." ⁷ But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him, for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart." ⁸ Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." ⁹ Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." ¹⁰ Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these." ¹¹ Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him, for we will not sit down until he comes here." ¹² He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. The LORD said, "Rise and anoint him, for this is the one."

RESPONSIVE PSALM | Psalm 23

R: The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

C: He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters;

R: he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

C: Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

R: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

C: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long.

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 | John 9:1-7

P: The Holy Gospel according to John, the 9th Chapter. **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹ As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ² His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³ Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him." ⁴ We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵ As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." ⁶ When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, ⁷ saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON | Pr. Matthew Rossler

SONG OF THE DAY | Lead On, Good Shepherd

Well I've been turned 'round, but I've never been lost. Seen the water get troubled, but we walked across.

When my knees were shaking, You held my hand, Turning my problems to a promised land.

Chorus: Lead on Good Shepherd; I'll follow all my days. There ain't nothing sweeter than to watch You make a way. You've walked me through the valley, But You never steered me wrong. So lead on Good Shepherd, lead on.

Seen some mighty deep canyons that You brought me through.

Seen some mighty big mountains that just up and moved.

Glory, glory, hallelujah, yeah that's my song. Walking with my Father into the great unknown. **Chorus**

Step by step, day by day, lead me on, Lord I pray. Road gets dark, walk by faith. Lead on, Good Shepherd.

Step by step, day by day, lead me on, Lord I pray. Road gets dark, walk by faith. Lead on, Good Shepherd.

Chorus

Step by step, day by day, lead me on, Lord I pray. Road gets dark, walk by faith. Lead on, Good Shepherd.

Step by step, day by day, lead me on, Lord I pray. Road gets dark, walk by faith. Lead on, Good Shepherd.

Lead on, Good Shepherd. Lead on, Good Shepherd. Lead on, Good Shepherd. Lead on, Good Shepherd.

Lead on, Good Shepherd, lead on.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

C: 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 THE PEOPLE

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

SHARING OF PEACE

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

OFFERING / NOISY OFFERING | *March: Becker County Food Pantry*

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.**

COMMUNION

Words of Institution

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.

Distribution

Post Communion Blessing

Post Communion Prayer

C: Gracious God, at this table you have nourished our body and soul with food and drink. As you have been food and drink for us, transform us to be food and drink for one another, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

BENEDICTION

SENDING SONG | *Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us v. 1-3* ELW #789

1. Savior, like a shepherd lead us; much we need your tender care.
In your pleasant pastures feed us, for our use your fold prepare.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have bought us; we are yours.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have bought us; we are yours.
2. We are yours; in love befriend us, be the guardian of our way;
keep your flock, from sin defend us, seek us when we go astray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear us children when we pray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear us children when we pray.
3. You have promised to receive us, poor and sinful though we be;
you have mercy to relieve us, grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, early let us turn to you.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, early let us turn to you.

SENDING

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



ANNOUNCEMENTS

SPRING BREAK

No Kids Fellowship today.

JOIN IN THE DISCUSSION

Sunday, April 15

@ 10:30am in the library

Pastor Joe, Pastor Matthew and the confirmation students have been sharing questions with the congregation on Sunday mornings. Now you have an opportunity to join in the discussion. in an informal and fun environment!

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, lightweight, dark colored bath towels & bath sized, bar soap.* A collection box is available outside of the church office.

DREAM BIG DONATIONS

Reminder, when writing a check, please write "Dream Big" or Capital Campaign" in the memo line of your check. Gifts denotate with "building" may be used for current repairs & maintenance and will not be used towards your pledge. Thanks!

WELCA GATHERING

Ladies, join us on *April 14*, for the spring gathering at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Wadena. Program begins at 9am and features Pr Lauryl Ivers. Look for more information coming soon!

THE CHOSEN BIBLE STUDY

Tuesdays at 1 pm, in the library. Through May 3

Join us as we begin Season 2 of the Chosen on March 17.

THEOLOGY ON TAP

March 19, April 16 & 30 @ 7pm

Only three more sessions left until we break for summer. Join us at Buck's Mill for great conversation with great people! All are welcome.

WANT TO TRY CONFIRMATION AGAIN?

March 25 & April 8. 6:30-7:30pm. In the sanctuary. Join our confirmation students for the following lessons: **3/25: Theology: Baptism & Communion** **4/8: Theology: The Cross vs. Glory**

PIE AUCTION

Sunday, March 22 @ 10:30am Join us for this fun and delicious event, supporting our summer high school tip to Wolf Ridge. We are looking for donations of pie & baked goods to auction off. Signup at the information table.

Prayers for God's People

Ongoing prayers for:
Bill Wegschied, Cole Woltjer, Gretta Frisch, Judy Wood, Larry Kjono, Tyler Wilson, Dave & Pam Nustad, Cami Eckhoff, Atticus, Kathy Larson, the Blake Family, Ethan Jacob, Dale and Ramona Amundson.

Prayers of comfort for those who mourn the loss of a loved one.

MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICES

Wednesdays @ noon, through March 25.

Join us Wednesdays in Lent for worship and a study of the book of Psalms. A soup & sandwich lunch to follow the service each week. Everyone is welcome — invite a friend!

EASTER FLOWERS

If you would like to order flowers in honor/memory of a loved one to be displayed on Easter Sunday, order forms are now available. Forms are at the information table, by the office or scan the QR code to pay online.



EASTER at FLC

Palm Sunday |
March 29

Maundy Thursday | April 2
Worship services @ 12 & 6pm

Good Friday | April 3
Worship services @ 12 & 6pm

Easter Sunday
Worship services @ 8:30,
9:30 & 10:30am

Thanks for worshipping with us!



First
Lutheran
Church

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

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



MEMBERSHIP

Interested in becoming a member of FLC?
New members are welcome all year, however, our **next New Member Welcome is May 3 & 6.**

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