



First Lutheran Church

Sunday, July 26, 2026, 8:30am 9th Sunday after Pentecost

As Solomon prays for wisdom, we seek to more deeply know the treasures of faith. In today's gospel Jesus offers everyday images that reveal to us the reign of God: a tree that becomes a sheltering home, yeast that penetrates and expands, a treasured pearl, a net that gains a great catch. Even as we seek the riches of God's reign, the great surprise is that God's grace finds us first!



WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVOCATION

GATHERING HYMN | *God of Grace and God of Glory* | ELW #705, vs 1 & 4

1. God of grace and God of glory,
on your people pour your pow'r;
crown your ancient church's story;
bring its bud to glorious flow'r.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.

4. Save us from weak resignation
to the evils we deplore;
let the gift of your salvation
be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
serving you whom we adore,
serving you whom we adore.

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 # 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.

SPECIAL MUSIC | *Salvation Medley - arr. Melody Bober Paul & Karen piano duet*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Beloved and sovereign God, **C: through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

FIRST READING | 1 Kings 3:5-12

⁵ At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, "Ask what I should give you." ⁶ And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you, and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. ⁷ And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸ And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹ Give your servant, therefore, an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil, for who can govern this great people of yours?" ¹⁰ It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹ God said to him, "Because you have asked this and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or for the life of your enemies but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹² I now do according to your word. Indeed, I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you, and no one like you shall arise after you.

RESPONSIVE PSALM | Psalm 119:129-136

R: Your decrees are wonderful; therefore my soul keeps them.

C: The unfolding of your words gives light; it imparts understanding to the simple.

R: With open mouth I pant, because I long for your commandments.

C: Turn to me and be gracious to me, as is your custom toward those who love your name.

R: Keep my steps steady according to your promise, and never let iniquity have dominion over me.

C: Redeem me from human oppression, that I may keep your precepts.

R: Make your face shine upon your servant, and teach me your statutes.

C: My eyes shed streams of tears because your law is not kept.

SECOND READING | Romans 8:37-39

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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 13:31-32

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 13th Chapter. **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

³¹ He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; ³² it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

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

SERMON | Pastor Joe Skogmo

HYMN OF THE DAY | Be Thou My Vision | ELW #793, vs 1-2, 4

1. Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
thou my best thought both by day and by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.
2. Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.
Thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tow'r,
raise thou me heav'nward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
4. Light of my soul, after victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

STATEMENT OF FAITH | *Apostle's Creed*

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.

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 | *July: Lutheran Disaster Response*

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 | *Lord, You Give the Great Commission* | vs. 1-2, 5 ELW #579

1 Lord, you give the great commission:
"Heal the sick and preach the word."
Lest the church neglect its mission,
and the gospel go unheard,
help us witness to your purpose
with renewed integrity:

**Refrain: With the Spirit's gifts empow'r us
for the work of ministry.**

2 Lord, you call us to your service:
"In my name baptize and teach."
That the world may trust your promise,
life abundant meant for each,
give us all new fervor, draw us
closer in community: **Refrain**

5 Lord, you bless with words assuring:
"I am with you to the end."
Faith and hope and love restoring,
may we serve as you intend
and, amid the cares that claim us,
hold in mind eternity: **Refrain**

SENDING

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



ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADULT VBS

August 3 & 10 @ 5:30-8pm

Join us as we dive into the book of Revelation! The evening will include music art, food and FUN!

SCHOOL KIT COLLECTION

The Women of FLC are collecting items for Lutheran World Relief School Kits. Items needed are:

- 70 sheet notebooks,
- boxes of 16 or 24 crayons,
- pencil sharpeners,
- 30 centimeter rulers,
- blunt tip scissors,
- unsharpened no. 2 pencils,
- black or blue pens,
- 2 1/2in erasers.

New items only. Donation bin is outside of the church office.

FUNERAL SERVICES

- *Arnold Larson* | Monday, July 27 @ 2:00pm at FLC
- *Ruth Olson* | Friday, August 7 @ 11:00am at FLC, visitation at 10am.

SPECIAL MUSIC

We are looking for musicians to provide special music during our summer worship services. All ages and groups are welcome.

Talk to Karen Bimberg to schedule a Sunday.
karen@firstlutheranchurch.com

WE CARE RECEIPTS

Save your *Central Market* receipts! The Rebekah Circle is collecting receipts and turning them in for cash, which is used to support local ministries and organizations. A collection basket is outside of the church office.

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

RADIO

Sundays at 10AM on
KDLM 1340-AM and 93.1-FM

ON-LINE

Live streamed on Facebook and on the FLC YouTube channel.

TELEVISION

Saturday at 9AM on
Arvig Cable ch14.

SUMMER WORSHIP TIMES

May 24 – September 6
8:30 & 10:30am

Join us this summer for worship! Our 8:30 am service is indoors and will be live streamed, the 10:30am service is outdoors on the lawn. If you are joining us outside, please bring a lawn chair or blanket.

Prayers for God's People

Bill Wegschied, Tyler Wilson, Dave & Pam Nustad, Cami Eckhoff, Kathy Larson, Haley & Mel Johnson, Alan Bergum, Betty Fischer, Cathy Buchholz, Sarah Duncan and Don Smith

Prayers of comfort for those who mourn the loss of a loved one, including the family of Ruth Olson, Larry Kiono & Arnold Larson.

Youth & Family Ministry

MIDDLE SCHOOL BONFIRE & GAME NIGHT

August 23 @ 6-8pm

REGISTRATION FOR 2026-27 YFM PROGRAMS NOW OPEN

Check our website for more information and registration links

Kids: firstlutheranchurch.com/childrensministry

Youth: firstlutheranchurch.com/youth-ministry



**Thanks for
worshiping with us!**

Lead Pastor Joe Skogmo & Minister Barry Fewson
Music Director: Karen Bimberg

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web: firstlutheranchurch.com

Ways to give:
Scan **QR code to give online** →
In person, during the offering.
Mail check to the church office.

