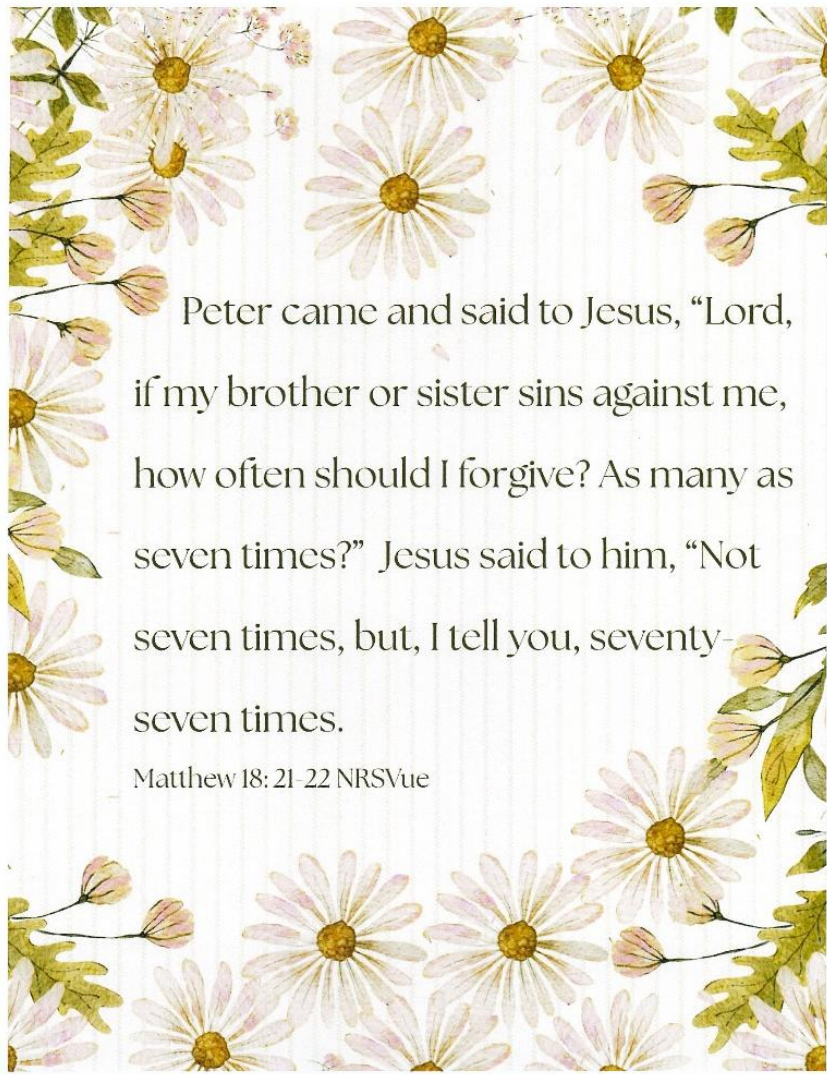




First Lutheran
relationships that transform



Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 6, 2026

Welcome to worship at First Lutheran Church.

We worship God using the form of worship which has been used by Christians throughout church history, which is commonly called “liturgical worship.” Liturgy is defined as the “work of the people,” which means that this is a participatory form of worship for all people, whether leading from the front, or singing and responding as a part of the congregation.

In worship, we come out of the chaos of the world to prepare ourselves to meet God, who is revealed to us in Jesus Christ. Through confession/forgiveness, prayer, and proclamation of the Word of God, we are led to the center of our worship which is the celebration of Holy Communion (also called the Lord’s Supper or Eucharist). It is in that act of eating and drinking the true body and blood of Jesus in the forms of bread and wine, that we make a sacred connection with God. As our worship concludes, we are sent back into the world, as people who have been changed by an encounter with God, to be light in the midst of the chaos and confusion of the world.



Are you having trouble hearing the sermon?

An assistive listening system is available in our sanctuary.

You may select a receiver from the basket in the rear of the sanctuary, near the sound booth; please return it following worship.

There are **printed** copies of the sermon available in the narthex near the bulletins

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16TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SEPTEMBER 13, 2026 8:15 am & 10:45 am

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to worship, we are glad that God has brought us together today! If you are visiting us today, please fill out a card to receive more information about First Lutheran Church. The cards are in the narthex near the bulletins or from an usher or staff member.

NURSERY

Children 3 and under are invited to our staffed nursery.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Children up to 5th grade are invited to attend Children's Church. Meet the leader at the back of the sanctuary. The children meet in the chapel and will return to service just before Holy Communion.

VIDEO PRELUDE

Forgiveness

Matthew West

Please stand.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity,  one God,
who pours love into our hearts
and healing upon the earth.

Amen.

Let us make personal confession of our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

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

Compassionate God,
**we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness
in the world and in our own hearts.**

We misuse the gift of creation.

Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships.

Indifference keeps us from seeking justice.

**Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love
to others.**

Turn our hearts back to you.

Restore our world and reconcile us to one another.

**Renew us to live as your holy people,
following the way of Jesus Christ.**

Amen.

Hear this good news:

We have peace with God through ✝ Jesus Christ,
in whom there is no condemnation,
but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life.
Receive freely this healing gift of grace.

Amen.

SHARING OF CHRIST'S PEACE

*The sharing of the peace is a time for us to be reconciled with one another
through the peace, love, and forgiveness of Christ.*

The Peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

OPENING HYMN

ELW 631

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling



1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heav'n, to
2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - 'ry
3 Come, Al-might - y, to de - liv - er; let us all thy
4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion, pure and spot - less



earth come down! Fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy
trou - bled breast; let us all in thee in - her - it; let us
life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -
let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -



faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,
find thy prom - ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning;
more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,
ly re - stored in thee! Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,



pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with
Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as
serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee
till in heav'n we take our place, till we cast our



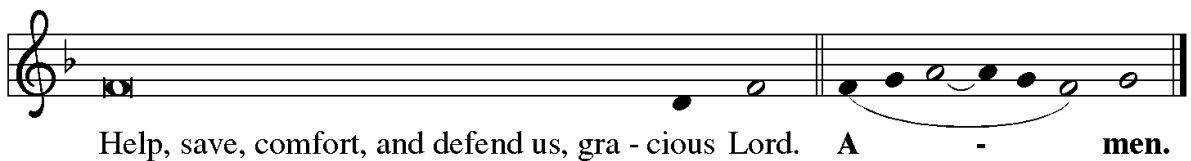
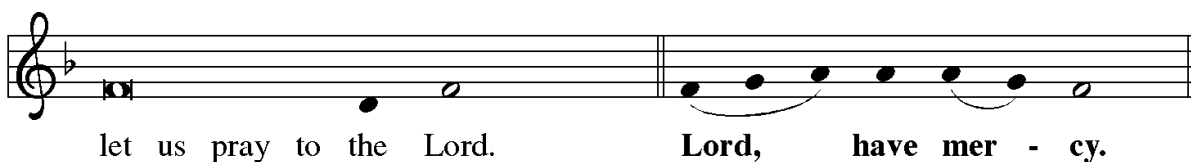
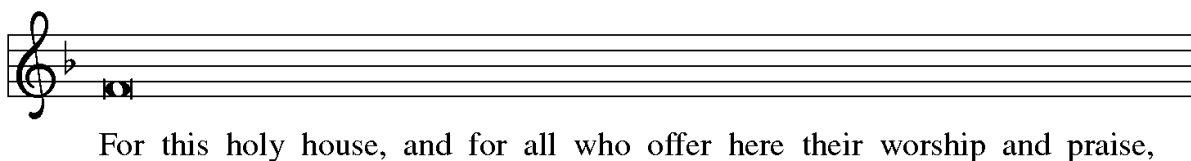
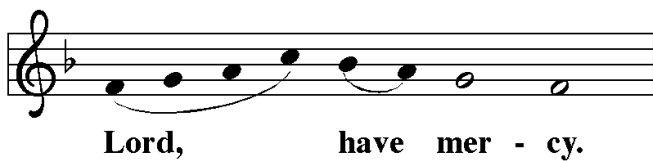
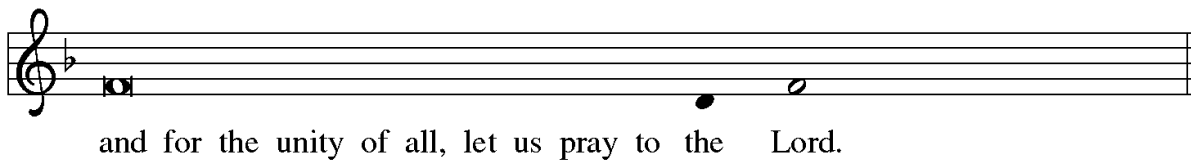
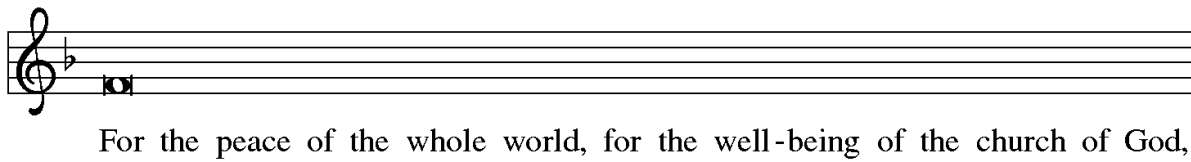
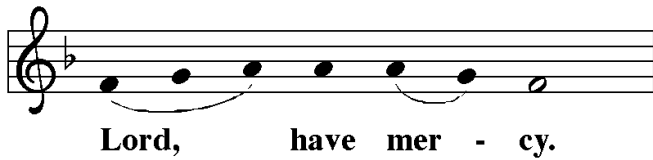
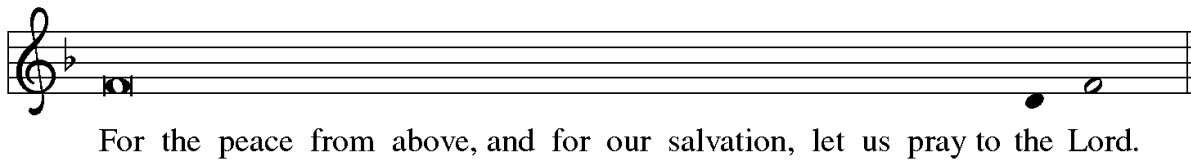
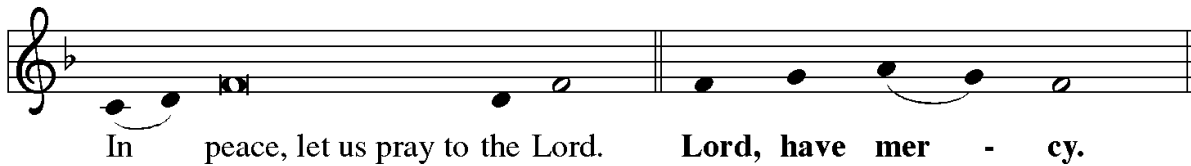
thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.
its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise!

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.

KYRIE

SETTING 3

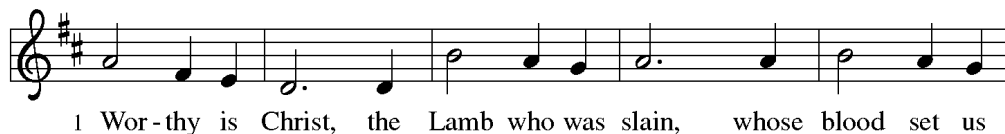


CANTICLE OF PRAISE

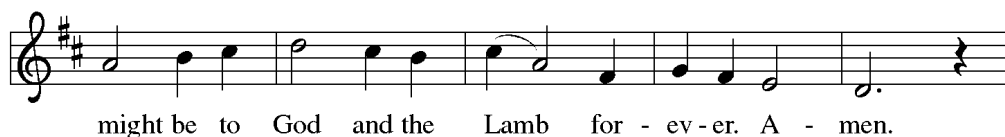
The choir begins-



The congregation joins-



Refrain



Final refrain



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Please be seated

HYMN

ELW 801

Change My Heart, O God

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are printed below the notes. The first two staves use a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The third and fourth staves use a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps (D major). The lyrics are: 'Change my heart, O God; make it ev-er true.' (first staff), 'Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.' (second staff), 'You are the pot - ter; I am the clay.' (third staff), and 'Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.' (fourth staff). The third and fourth staves begin with a rest followed by a triplet of eighth notes (F#, G, A) and then a dotted quarter note (B).

Change my heart, O God; make it ev-er true.

Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.

You are the pot - ter; I am the clay.

Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.

BLESSING OF THE LECTOR

Let us pray.

Gracious God, we do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from you. Bless our lector who will read to us the scriptures. Make us hunger for the Word of life, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Genesis 50:15 – 21

¹⁵ Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶ So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷ 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸ Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰ Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹ So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING: Romans 14:1 – 12

¹ Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ² Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³ Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat, for God has welcomed them. ⁴ Who are you to pass judgment on slaves of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵ Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶ Those who observe the day, observe it for the Lord. Also those who eat, eat for the Lord, since they give thanks to God, while those who abstain, abstain for the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷ For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸ If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹ For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰ Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹ For it is written,

"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God."

¹² So then, each one of us will be held accountable.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Celtic Alleluia

CELTIC ALLELUIA!

Fintan O'Carroll/Christopher Walker



(Refrain sung by Cantor, then ALL sings before and after verse)



GOSPEL: Matthew 18:21 – 35

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew
Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹ Peter came and said to [Jesus,] “Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” ²² Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³ “For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴ When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, ²⁵ and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵ So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ**

SERMON

How Long Do I Have to Put Up with This?

Pastor Jeff Borgwardt

Transcripts of the sermon can be found near the bulletins in the Narthex.

SILENT REFLECTION

Please stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW 605

Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive



- 1 "For - give our sins as we for - give," you taught us, Lord, to pray;
- 2 How can your par - don reach and bless the un - for - giv - ing heart
- 3 In blaz - ing light your cross re - veals the truth we dim - ly knew:
- 4 Lord, cleanse the depths with - in our souls and bid re - sent - ment cease;



but you a - lone can grant us grace to live the words we say.
that broods on wrongs and will not let old bit - ter - ness de - part?
how tri - fling oth - ers' debts to us; how great our debt to you!
then, by your mer - cy rec - on - ciled, our lives will spread your peace.

APOSTLES 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.**

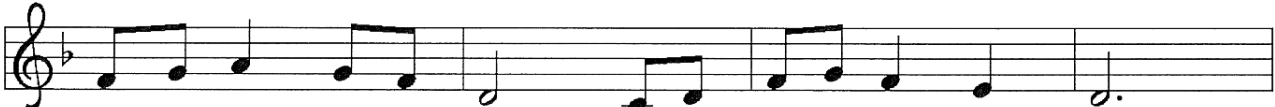
**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Let My Prayer Rise Up

All



Let my prayer rise up like in - cense be - fore you, the



lift-ing up of my hands as an of - fer-ing to you.

Leader or Group One



O God, I call to you, come to me now; oh, hear my



voice when I cry to you. Let my prayer rise up like



in - cense be - fore you, the lift-ing up of my hands as an



of - fer-ing to you. Keep watch with - in me, God;



deep in my heart may the light of your love be burn - ing

bright. Let my prayer rise up like in-cense be -

fore you, the lift-ing up of my hands as an of-fer-ing to

you. All praise to the God of all— Cre - a - tor of

life; all praise be to Christ and the Spir - it of love.

Let my prayer rise up like in-cense be - fore you, the

lift-ing up of my hands as an of-fer-ing to you.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each petition ends with: Lord, in your mercy
Congregational response: Hear our prayer.

Receive our prayers...in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen**

Let my prayer rise up like in-cense be - fore you, the

lift-ing up of my hands as an of-fer-ing to you.

Please be seated.

OFFERING ANTHEM

The Lord's Prayer

Neil Thompson

Please stand.

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

ELW 692

As the gifts are presented, the congregation sings.

We Are an Offering

692

The musical score is written on six staves in treble clef. It features a melody with various note values including eighth, quarter, and half notes, as well as rests. Triplet markings (a '3' over a group of notes) are present on the first, third, and fifth staves. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line on the sixth staff.

We lift our voic-es, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an
of-fer-ing. Lord, use our voic-es, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our
lives, they are yours: we are an of-fer-ing. All that we have, all that we are,
all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you.
We lift our voic-es, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you:
we are an of-fer-ing, we are an of-fer-ing.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of creation,
All blessings are from you;
make us generous with what we have.
Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts
in service to you and in love to our neighbors,
today and always.
Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

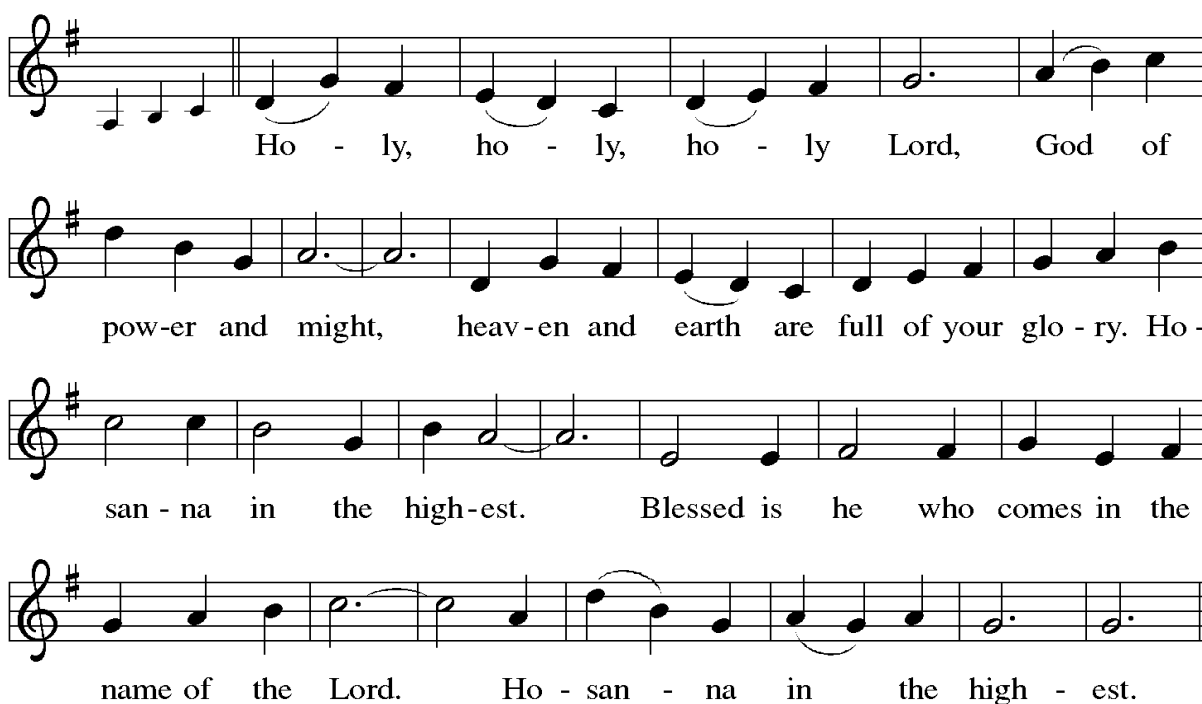
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

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.

It is indeed right...we praise your name and join in their unending hymn.



EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The gifts of God for the people of God. . .

Please be seated.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

All baptized Christians are welcome to commune. We teach that Holy Communion is a celebration of the real presence of Christ under forms of bread and wine. For those who prefer, cups in the center ring of the tray are filled with white grape juice. If you wish to receive a blessing, signal this by crossing your arms against your chest.

Lamb of God

Your Only Son

336

1 Your on - ly Son, no sin to hide, but you have
sent him from your side to walk up - on this guilt - y
sod and to be - come the Lamb of God. O Lamb of
God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the ho - ly Lamb of God. Oh, wash me
in your pre - cious blood, my Je - sus Christ, the Lamb of God.

The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: '1 Your on - ly Son, no sin to hide, but you have'. The second staff continues: 'sent him from your side to walk up - on this guilt - y'. The third staff continues: 'sod and to be - come the Lamb of God. O Lamb of'. The fourth staff continues: 'God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the ho - ly Lamb of God. Oh, wash me'. The fifth staff concludes: 'in your pre - cious blood, my Je - sus Christ, the Lamb of God.' The score ends with a double bar line.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

In Remembrance

Words and Music by
Ragan Courtney and Buryl Red

VERSE 1 & 2

1. In re - mem - brance of Me, eat this bread. In re - mem - brance of
(2. In re) - mem - brance of Me, heal the sick. In re - mem - brance of

Me, drink this wine. In re - mem - brance of Me, pray for the time when God's own
Me, feed the poor. In re - mem - brance of Me, o - pen the door and let your

1

2

BRIDGE

will is done. 2. In re in, let him in. Take, eat, and be
broth-er

com - fort - ed, drink and re - mem - ber, too, that this is My bod-y and pre - cious

VERSE 3

blood shed for you, shed for you. 3. In re - mem - brance of Me, search for truth.

In re - mem - brance of Me, al - ways love. In re - mem - brance of Me don't look a -

In Remembrance - 2

48 $E\flat$ $A\flat$ sus $A\flat$ Cm $D\flat$ $D\flat/E\flat$ $A\flat$ $D\flat$

-bove, but in your heart, look in your heart for God. Do this in re -

56 $D\flat/E\flat$ $E\flat 7$ sus $A\flat$

- mem - brance of Me.

HYMN #2

ELW 359

Where Charity and Love Prevail

1 Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail, there God is ev - er found;
 2 With grate-ful joy and ho - ly fear, God's char - i - ty we learn;
 3 Let us re - call that in our midst dwells Christ, God's ho - ly Son;
 4 Let strife a - mong us be un - known; let all con - ten - tions cease.
 5 Let us for - give each oth - er's faults as we our own con - fess,

brought here to - geth - er by Christ's love, by love we thus are bound.
 let us with heart and mind and soul now love God in re - turn.
 as mem - bers of each bod - y joined, in him we are made one.
 Be God's the glo - ry that we seek; be his our on - ly peace.
 that we may love each oth - er well in Chris - tian gen - tle - ness.

Jesus, Name Above All Names

D F#m⁷

Je - sus, name a - bove all names, beau - ti - ful

Em⁷ A

Sav - ior, glo - ri - ous Lord, Em -

D F#m⁷

man - u - el, God is with us, bless - ed Re -

Em⁷

Optional repeat	Last time
D G/A A	D

deem - er, liv - ing Word. Word.

Please stand.

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen us and keep us in His grace. **Amen.**

CANTICLE



Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful -

filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre-pared in the

sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the na - tions

and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

Now, Lord, you let your ser - vant go in peace.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

God of our salvation,
we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls,
reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey.
Through the body and blood of your Son,
may we become Christ's body in the world,
bearing witness to your love for all creation,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

BENEDICTION

May the Lord bless you and keep you.
May the Lord's face shine on you and be gracious to you.
May the Lord look upon you with favor, and give you peace.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN

TFF 184

Wonderful Grace of Jesus



1 Won - der - ful grace of Je - sus, great - er than all my sin;
2 Won - der - ful grace of Je - sus, reach - ing to all the lost,
3 Won - der - ful grace of Je - sus, reach - ing the most de - filed,



how shall my tongue de - scribe it, where shall its praise be - gin?
by it I have been par - doned, saved to the ut - ter - most.
by its trans - form - ing pow - er I now am God's dear child.



Tak - ing a - way my bur - den, set - ting my spir - it free—
Chains have been torn a - sun - der, giv - ing me lib - er - ty—
Pur - chas - ing peace and heav - en for all e - ter - ni - ty—



the won - der - ful grace of Je - sus reach - es me.
the won - der - ful grace of Je - sus reach - es me.
the won - der - ful grace of Je - sus reach - es me.

Refrain

Won-der-ful the match-less grace of Je - sus, deep - er than the might-y roll - ing
 sea; high - er than the moun - tain, spar - kling like a foun - tain,
 all suf-fi - cient grace for e - ven me; broad - er than the scope of my trans-
 gres - sions, great - er far than all my sin and shame; oh,
 mag-ni-fy the pre-cious name of Je - sus, praise his name!

Go in peace. We are formed and loved by Christ to live!
Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

LOOKING AHEAD TO NEXT WEEK

Monday, September 14	Tuesday, September 15	Wednesday, September 16
9:30 am Staff Meeting 4:30 pm Serve dinner at House of Hope 6:00 pm Dorcas Circle	9:30 am Friendship Circle 11:15 am Stew Pot 3:30 – 5:30 pm Success Center 4:30 – 5:30 pm Fitness class 6:00 pm Book Club 6:30 pm Family Improvement 6:30 pm Spiritual Journey	10:00 pm Quilters 5:00-6:00 pm Dinner 5:45 pm Bell Choir 5:45 pm Mentoring Plus 6:00 pm Confirmation 6:00 pm Youth Group 7:00 pm Choir 7:00 pm Activity Hour
Thursday, September 17	Friday, September 18	Saturday, September 19
3:30 – 5:30 pm Success Center 4:30 – 5:30 pm Fitness class 6:30 pm Council Meeting		
Sunday, September 20	Volunteer Schedule this week: September 13	Volunteer Schedule next week: September 20
8:15 am Worship with Holy Communion, and Children's Church. 9:30 am Sunday School 10:00 am Choir Rehearsal 10:45 am Worship with Holy Communion, and Children's Church.	Lector: 8:15 am: Donna Ashby 10:45 am: Teresa DeShazer Communion: Set up: Joe & Donna Louvier Clean Up: Teresa DeShazer & Randi McRae Offering Counters: Arlene Hicks & Deb Butts	Lector: 8:15 am: Beverly Bell 10:45 am: Jim Meyer Communion: Set up: Gloria Bero Clean Up: Eva Touchstone Offering Counters: Jenn Belcourt & Deb Paschall

Readings in preparation for Sunday, September 20

Jonah 3:10-4:11; Psalm 145, Philippians 1:21-30; Matthew 20:1-16

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Flowers on the altar today are placed by Sharon Leikam in memory of Jim Leikam's birthday



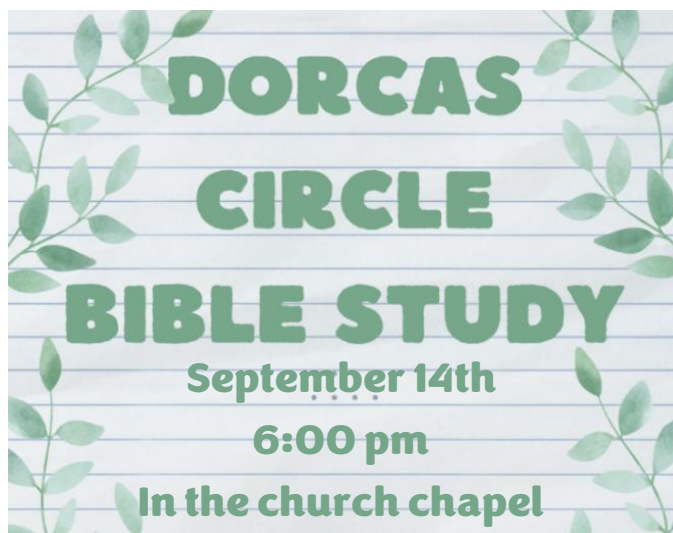
We will be placing an order for church T-shirts. If you would like one, please sign up in the narthex. Sizes S-XL \$20, Sizes 2XL and up \$25.

Tuesday Morning Bible Study

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

**September 15th
9:30 am**

In the church conference room



Come and join the
First Lutheran

BOOK CLUB

- Meetings monthly on 3rd Tuesday in the Café @ 6:00 pm
- Discover New books
- Make friends

**The next meeting is September 15
at 6:00 pm in the Café.**

**Discussing the book *Project Hail Mary*,
By Andy Weir**



**It's time to gather candy for our
annual Trunk or Treat.
Donations appreciated.**



Interested in a mid-week get away?

**Plans are being made for a train trip to
Ft. Worth, Tx on October 7 & 8.**

All singles and couples are welcome.

**If you are interested, please contact
Sharon Leikam 785-623-1162 or
Arlene Hicks 903-293-5933
Before September 15th**



**Sunday Evening Bible Study returns
October 11th at 6:00 pm.**

All are welcome.

WEEKLY HAPPENINGS AT FIRST LUTHERAN



Do you know a family that is struggling with managing all that life brings? Invite them to join our Family Improvement class where practical teaching helps parents and families build better lives! Contact John Parsons for more information 903-295-7423.

FAMILY IMPROVEMENT MEAL

One of the things that makes the Family Improvement class work so well for families is that we serve them a meal (cooking is not required). We need volunteers to help provide a meal. **Those who are willing to help in this way, you may sign up for a Tuesday night on the sheet in the narthex.**

EXERCISE CLASS



Tuesdays & Thursdays
4:30—5:30 pm
Fellowship Hall

A SPIRITUAL JOURNEY



Stepping into God's will and purpose for your life

TUESDAYS
6:30 PM

Join us in taking steps that can help develop a healthy, peaceful, and harmonious relationship with God, with others, and with yourself.

God, grant me the serenity to accept the people I cannot change, the courage to change the one I can, & the wisdom to know that one is Me. Living one day at a time; Enjoying one moment at a time; Accepting hardships as the pathway to peace; Taking, as Jesus Christ did, this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it; Trusting that Jesus will make all things right if I surrender to His will. So, that I may be reasonably happy in this life & supremely happy with Him forever & ever in the next! Amen!

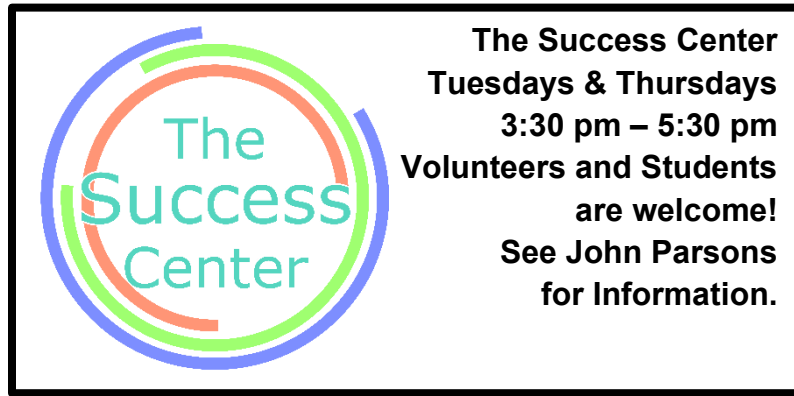
SERENITY PRAYER

First Lutheran Church
3901 Bill Owens Parkway
Longview, Texas 75605
(903) 295-7423



Classes offered on
Sunday Mornings at 9:30 am

- **Reflective Bible Study**
Led by Vivian McElligott
- **Study of the book of Genesis**
Led by Kevin Bond
- **The Augsburg Confession**
Led by Pastor Jeff & Bill Anderson



Weekly Financial Report

Church Cash Flow Year to Date as of:

09/06/2026

Regular Church Offering: 2026		
Contributions:	\$	407,304
Expenditures:	\$	438,546
Difference:	\$	(31,242)

Building Maintenance Fund Activity: 2026		
Contributions:	\$	44,727
Expenditures:	\$	6,839
Difference:	\$	37,888

*Respectfully,
Rachel Keiser*

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please send all prayer requests and updates to the church office at: prayerchain@firstlutheran.us

FLC Members

The family of Paula Kaplan who died 8/15/26.

Zoie Perry is having chemotherapy for breast cancer.

Lois Boldt is in hospice care.

Pray for the children and teens who attend our church and The Success Center.

Pray for church growth, numerically and spiritually.

Pray for wisdom and direction for our church leadership.

Pray for the homebound of our church and their caregivers.

Jane Bailey	Robert Kohnfelder
Durwin Sewell	Bruno Schueler
Mary Ann Gamel	Chuck Kaplan
Patty Lowe	Johnnie Owens
Joseph Carlson	Albert Holmen
Lois Boldt	

Family and Friends of FLC Members

Steve Kelly, brother to Johnny Davis, is having breathing problems.

Alzheimer's patients and their caregivers.

Those who are imprisoned.

The homeless

Members Serving in the Military

Eric Jenkins – Air Force, Ft. Meade, MD

Terrina Anderson – U.S. Army The Pentagon

Timothy Martin – Navy

Hannah Perry – Army, San Antonio, Tx

GOSPEL MESSAGE

September 13, 2026

Forgiven and Freed

Today's gospel reading is all about forgiveness. In the complex web of human relationships, forgiveness often feels messy. We may not understand it, and it may at times feel entirely out of reach. Yet, as Christians, we are called to wrestle with the promise that even when forgiveness feels impossible, there is room for us and for others in the wideness of God's mercy. How do we make sense of this?

We might begin by experiencing God's forgiveness ourselves. Many worshiping communities begin the service with a time of confession and forgiveness. Together we name out loud the ways we have failed to love God and neighbor, the ways we have failed to recognize ourselves or one another as beloved children of God. We name how we have been complacent in systems of injustice, how we have harmed one another directly, and the hurtful things we don't even know we've done.

This practice may seem deeply unsettling; after all, where else do we greet each other with a list of all the things we've done wrong? But confession is also freeing. It gives us permission to stop pretending we have it all together. It allows us to shed the weight of our mistakes and lay down our burdens so our hands and hearts are ready to receive God's mercy.

And then, week after week, we hear God's words of forgiveness for us and for our neighbors. We are reminded that there is always and forever enough of God's grace and forgiveness to go around. The public declaration of our forgiveness frees us to enter into the rest of our worship service with open and grateful hearts. And then God's forgiveness sends us out in the world to practice the hard work of forgiving others and receiving their forgiveness in turn, knowing that God will meet us again and again with mercy and grace.

Assisting In Worship Today

Celebrant: Jeffrey Borgwardt

Musicians: Donna Ashby, Pat Mueller
and The Chancel Choir

Live Stream: 8:15 am Deb Butts,
Eric Chandler, and Daniel Chandler

10:45 am: Diane Borgwardt

Lectors:

8:15 am: Donna Ashby

10:45 am: Teresa DeShazer

Church Staff

Jeffrey E. Borgwardt, Pastor
Donna Ashby, Director of Music
John Parsons, Dir. of Family and Outreach Min.
Tina Sewell, Secretary
Rachel Keiser, Bookkeeper
Steve Howie, Facilities Coordinator

2026 CONGREGATION COUNCIL

Beverly Bell (*President*)
Randy Cathey (*Vice-President*)
Arlene Hicks (*Secretary*)
Ranette Carter (*Treasurer*)
Jenn Belcourt (*Relationship with God*)
Johnny Davis (*Relationship with Community*)
Mary Stuart (*Relationship with One Another*)

3901 Bill Owens Parkway

Longview, Texas 75605

903-295-7423

churchsecretary@firstlutheran.us

www.FirstLutheran.us

We receive gifts for the mission of the congregation and the Church in the world. An offering plate is available in the back of the sanctuary. If you prefer to give by credit card you may do so at www.firstlutheran.us/donate or by scanning the QR code below



FLC regularly supports the work of the following ministries of our denomination and community with financial, volunteer, and food offerings:

Longview Community Ministries

Newgate Mission

Living Water International

Lutheran World Relief

Lutheran Disaster Response

For more information on how to get involved contact the church office (903)295-7423.