



First Evangelical
Lutheran Church
455 West Sunnyside Road
Idaho Falls, ID 83402
(208)522-9301
www.firstlc.com

July 19, 2026

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

WELCOME! Welcome into God's house and the fellowship of this congregation. We hope that you will be both comforted and challenged by God's Word for us today. If you are new to our community, we hope you will consider making this your church home (*if you have questions about FELC feel free to contact our leaders listed on the back of our bulletin*). If you are already a member, be sure to extend a friendly greeting to those around you, starting with someone you don't know ... yet :-). After the service we invite worshipers to enjoy some refreshments in our Fellowship Hall.

WORSHIP NOTES:

- ♦ **Bold printed words** indicate the congregation's responses.
- ♦ For families with young children, you're invited to take advantage of our worship activity bags for children located in the lobby. A nursery for children 4 and younger is located in Room #7 of the education wing down the hall past the main bathrooms.
- ♦ For those with hearing loss, we have hearing devices available at the welcome window; ask an usher for assistance.
- ♦ For those with eyesight issues, we have large print bulletins; ask an usher for one.
- ♦ If you have a moment, please sign the friendship pad in the pew and pass it to others in your pew.

WE PREPARE OURSELVES FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Heidi Bessette

Please observe silence in preparation for worship.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE LIFT OUR PRAYERS AND PRAISE TO GOD

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father, the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

GATHERING SONG

#786

"O Holy Spirit, Enter In"

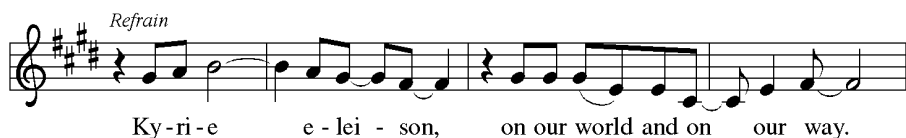
APOSTOLIC GREETING

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 (OPENING PRAYER)

p. 184



- 1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
- 2 That we may live out your im - passionate re - sponse to the
- 3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . . for
- 4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the



u - ni - ty of all; for
hun - gry and the poor; that
friends and fam - i - ly; for
wa - ter and the word; that you



this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,
we may live out truth and jus - tice and grace,
life and for love, for our work and our play,
nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,



let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.



☐ Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



☐ Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - migh - y God and Fa - ther, we



wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



☐ Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



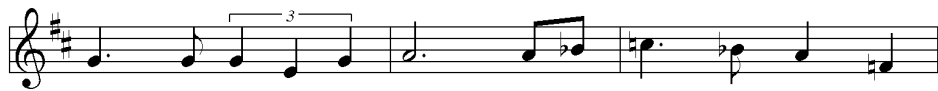
glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



☐ Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the



right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

☐ Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;
 glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.
 ① For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,
 ② you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly
 Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther, A - men.
 ☐ Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;
 glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth,
 and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

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WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON (*Pew Bible p. 587*)

Isaiah 44:6-8

Our first scripture reading is from the Old Testament, the book of the prophet Isaiah, chapter forty-four, beginning with verse six.

⁶ Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel,
 and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts:
 I am the first, and I am the last;
 besides me there is no god.
⁷ Who is like me? Let them proclaim it;
 let them declare and set it forth before me.
 Who has announced from of old the things to come?
 Let them tell us what is yet to be.
⁸ Do not fear or be afraid;
 have I not told you from of old and declared it?
 You are my witnesses!
 Is there any god besides me?
 There is no other rock; I know not one.

This is God's word.
Thanks be to God.

SECOND LESSON (*Pew Bible p. 919*) Romans 8:12-25
 Our second lesson comes from the New Testament, the Apostle Paul's letter to the church in Rome, chapter eight, beginning with verse twelve.

¹² So then, brothers and sisters, we are obligated, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—¹³ for if you live according to the flesh, you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!"

¹⁶ it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs: heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if we in fact suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

¹⁸ I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us.

¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God, ²⁰ for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its enslavement to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning together as it suffers together the pains of labor, ²³ and not only the creation,

but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.
²⁴ For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what one already sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

This is the word of God.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand, as you are able, for the reading of the Gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

p. 188

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Lutheran Book of Worship, Robin Cain OneLicense SKU #06829 © 1999, Augsburg Fortress OneLicense #A-736147

THE HOLY GOSPEL (Pew Bible p. 795)

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, chapter thirteen, beginning with verse twenty-four.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁴ [Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field, ²⁵ but while everybody was asleep an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and then went away. ²⁶ So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. ²⁷ And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ ²⁸ He answered, ‘An enemy has

done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ ²⁹ But he replied, ‘No, for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. ³⁰ Let both of them grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’ ”

³⁶ Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” ³⁷ He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; ³⁸ the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, ³⁹ and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰ Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹ The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, ⁴² and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!”

The Gospel of our Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

PASTOR MIKE KNAUFF

“Gardening for God”

SONG OF THE DAY

#404

“Come, Gracious Spirit, Heavenly Dove”

THE SERMON

PASTOR MIKE KNAUFF

“Being ‘Wheat Focused’ in a ‘Weed Obsessed’ World”

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

APOSTLES’ CREED

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit**

and born of the virgin Mary.
 He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died, and was buried.
 He descended into hell.
 On the third day he rose again.
 He ascended into heaven,
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
 He will come again 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

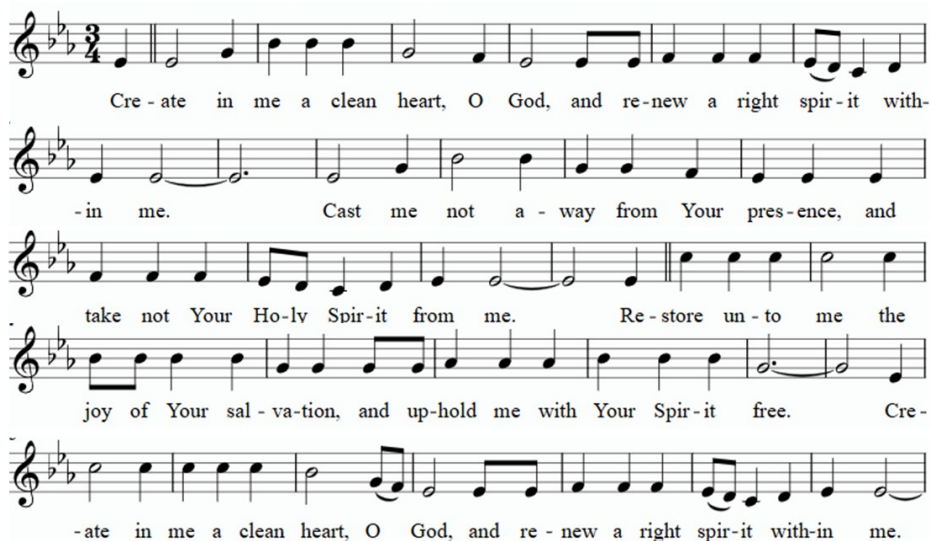
(Each petition will conclude with "Lord in your mercy;" the congregation responds with "Hear our prayer.")

OFFERING

SEE BACK OF BULLETIN FOR QR GIVING CODE

OFFERTORY

CREATE IN ME



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right spir - it with -
 in me. Cast me not a - way from Your pres - ence, and
 take not Your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store un - to me the
 joy of Your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with Your Spir - it free. Cre -
 ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right spir - it with - in me.

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WE CELEBRATE OUR LORD'S SUPPER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

On the night of His betrayal, 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.

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.

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.

DISTRIBUTION

We believe those who receive the consecrated bread and wine receive Christ's body and blood and the forgiveness of sins. We invite all who are baptized and believe in Christ to join us in communing. Children not receiving communion may come forward for a blessing. Holy Communion will be served at the altar rail this morning. Please come forward at the direction of the ushers. You may choose white grape juice or red wine. The serving station at the center of the altar rail is our hypoallergenic station with gluten-free wafers. Please return to your seats by a side aisle.

SONGS DURING DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

#689 "Praise and Thanksgiving"
#774 "What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine"
#492 "Eat This Bread, Drink This Cup"

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

Now may this body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his grace.
Amen.

THE BENEDICTION

And now may the Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord
make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor, and give you his
peace.

Amen.

CLOSING SONG

#399

“O Holy Spirit, Root of Life”

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

**THE WORSHIP IS ENDED
LET THE SERVICE BEGIN!**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS!

The office hours have changed for July and August. We will be open from 9 am to 2 pm Monday - Thursday.

PENNY POWER:

Penny Power for July will be given to FISH (Friends In Service Here). Because of the generous support of the Christmas Giving Machine, FISH has enough money to provide school supplies and fill backpacks for students who cannot afford them. FISH also provides assistance to local individuals and families who are experiencing difficult times. With Penny Power funds this month we will be able to help meet urgent needs and offer hope to our neighbors when they need it most.

FELC CHRISTIAN LEAGUE SOFTBALL TEAM:

Sunday afternoon games have started and run through August with playoffs in September. We'd love to have fans in the stands so please come and support us by cheering the team on at the games.

JULY 19TH - Community Park NE @ 6:30pm vs CCC Orange

DREAM TEAM DELI NITES:

Where is God leading FELC next? To begin answering that question, we're inviting the entire congregation to take part in a series of Wednesday evening gatherings called the FELC "Dream Team." Our gatherings, "Dream Team Deli: Build Your Own Hero Nite," will be a relaxed, welcoming space to share a meal and begin dreaming together about the future of our church. The meal itself reflects the spirit of the evening. As we build our own sandwiches, we'll be reminded that no single ingredient makes the whole sandwich. In the same way, no single voice will shape our future - but only together can we discern God's direction for FELC. This is not a meeting for a select few - it's an open invitation to anyone who cares about the life and future of our congregation. *Everyone who comes is part of the Dream Team.* The church will provide the basics (bread, meats, cheeses, mayo & mustard) for our "build-your-own hero" meal. We invite you to bring a side dish or dessert to share. Please sign up on the Dream Team Deli display near the Welcome Window in the narthex. (If you'd like more information about the individual sessions please see the "Dream Team Deli" insert in the bulletin.)

As we look ahead, we do so with gratitude for where we've been, confident in God's faithfulness, and hopeful for what is still to come.

SERVICE ON CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

The FELC Nominating Committee will be helping our congregation to mutually discern, through prayer, those that the Holy Spirit calls for service on the Council. One third of the Council's membership is replenished annually by election at the November congregational meeting. Our Council resolves consequential issues that deeply influence the life and ministry of our church. This week, and during the month of July, the worship bulletins will contain a nominating form suitable to write-in names of persons recommended for service on the Council. Contact Chris Brooks at (208) 881-3352 or cwbsrv@gmail.com with any questions.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS NEEDED!

We are looking for additional people who are willing to assist during our Sunday services as communion assistants, liturgists, or serve on altar guild. If you feel called to serve in this capacity, please contact DiAnn Brown.

MINISTRY TEAM BUDGET PROPOSALS DUE:

All ministry teams need to have their 2027 budget proposals submitted to Natalie Meyer no later than **August 8th** in order for the Finance Team to begin the annual budget process.

TEACH ME YOUR WAY

O Lord

THAT I MAY WALK
IN YOUR TRUTH;
UNITE MY HEART
TO FEAR YOUR NAME.

PSALM 86:11



HOW CAN WE PRAY FOR YOU?

If you have a prayer request, please fill out a purple prayer request card and drop it in the offering plate or you can email office@firstlc.com.

All requests remain confidential - only with permission are individual names placed on the written prayer list below.

PRAYERS FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL, RECOVERING, OR GOING THROUGH A DIFFICULT TIME:

Donna Amundson; Kären Bateman; Betty Benjamin; Charlotte Benson; Dean Benson; Kevin Call; Tracy Coburn; Margaret Contor; Devyn, Cornden & Elias Cox; Wendy Cudmore; Dayna Dabauras; Laura Dean; Joan Douglas; Josephine Fife; Sharon Gilbert; Jo & Al Glissendorf; Diane Hackman; Steve Hammond; Grayson Hansen; Josie Holtz; Cathy Homberg; Ann Hurley; Lexi Jensen; Vickie John; Lynn Parshall Kinghorn; Mary Krippner; Pat Lance; Austin Leger; Allan Magnuson; Mike Martin; Adara McClure; Bob McGee; Tim Metcalf; Vicky Mickelson; Cal Miller; Dick Mitchell; Wendy Morgan; Mark Mullinix, Bob Neff; Josh Neis; Don Newman; Heidi Packer; Mary Pilkington; Mark Pischer; Priscilla Rainey; Patricia Richardson; Camille Ronnebaum; Laura Schoonmaker; Jason & Kelly Smith; Julie Sundberg; Scot Swenson; Kathy Tauscher; Deborah Vavra; Linn Watson; Chris Weaver; Daniel & Sarah Young

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING FOR RESTORED HEALTH:

Laura Hundley; Pastor Mike Knauff; Ashley [Mitchell]

OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHIES TO:

- Family and friends of Alicia Palmer, who died on June 20th. Her graveside service @ the VA cemetery in Blackfoot was led by Pastor Mike on June 26th.
- Family and friends of Judy Sahr, who died on June 27th. Her graveside service was led by Pastor Mike on July 11th.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH	
TODAY SUNDAY 7/19/2026	
10:15 am	Sunday Worship - Sanctuary
11:30 am	Fellowship Hour - Fellowship Hall
MONDAY 7/20/2026	
10:00 am	Staff Meeting - Library
11:30 am	PEO Meeting - Fellowship Hall
7:00 pm	Council Meeting - Classroom #2
TUESDAY 7/21/2026	
9:00 am	Happy Stitchers - Fellowship Hall
12:00 pm	Happy Stitchers' Bible Study - Library
6:00 pm	Girl Scout Troop #930 - Fellowship Hall
6:30 pm	Financial Peace University - Library
WEDNESDAY 7/22/2026	
6:00 pm	Dream Team Deli Nite - Fellowship Hall
THURSDAY 7/23/2026	
10:00 am	Kaffeeklatsch - Library
FRIDAY 7/24/2026	
	Red Cross Blood Drive - Fellowship Hall
SATURDAY 7/25/2026	
9:00 am	Men's Breakfast - Fellowship Hall
SUNDAY 7/26/2026	
10:15 am	Sunday Worship - Sanctuary
11:30 am	Fellowship Hour - Fellowship Hall

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

Greeters: Michelle Cleverly, Mary Pilkington

Liturgist: Sheryl Schaffer

Communion Assistants:

Debra Holst, Shawn Cleverly

Usher Coordinator: Richard Magnuson

Ushers: Geri Magnuson, Tom Pilkington

Counters: Debra Holst, Beth Nicholas

Altar Guild: Cathi Bean & Diana Murphy

Collection Specialist: Andrew Swenson

Streaming Technician: Paul Lerum

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**SCAN THE QR
CODE FOR GIVING.**

FELC LEADERSHIP

MINISTERS: **All the Members of FELC**

Senior Pastor: Pastor Mike Knauff e-mail: pastormike@firstlc.com

Church Administrator: Julie Sagnimeni e-mail: office@firstlc.com

Family Minister: Heather Catanese e-mail: youth@firstlc.com

Bookkeeper: Greg Stultz e-mail: bookkeeper@firstlc.com

Music Director: Michelle Hanson e-mail: musicdirector@firstlc.com

Choir Accompanist: Heidi Bessette.....

Praise Band Director: Steve Galbraith.....

Pastor Emeritus/Minister of Welcome: Pastor Larry Cudmore.....

Preschool Director: Barbara Carlson flpreschoolif@gmail.com

Summer Office hours: Monday - Thursday 9:00 am - 2:00 pm, Friday Closed

Web Page: www.firstlc.com • Phone: 208-522-9301

Report of First Evangelical Lutheran Church

Year to date Income thru May \$174,350; Year to date Expenses thru May \$154,382

Year to date net Cash Flow thru May \$19,968

Last Week's in Worship Attendance:124, Live Stream:50