



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

July 26, 2026

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

WELCOME! A hearty welcome to all our guests! The addition of your praise and thanks to God heartens us all. If you are just passing through, we wish you godspeed. If you are looking for a church home, you will find a ready welcome here at FELC. 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

Michelle Hanson

"O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee"

Smith, arr. Michael Cox; CCLI Song #7214939; © 2012, Lorenz Publishing Co. For use solely with the CCLI® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com CCLI License #699128

Please observe silence in preparation for worship.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVOCATION

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

BRIEF ORDER OF CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination...

Most merciful God...

We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

WE LIFT OUR PRAYERS AND PRAISE TO GOD

GATHERING SONG

#532

“Gather Us 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

Refrain



Ky-ri-e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.



Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.



- 1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
2 That we may live out your im - passioned 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,

Refrain



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.



① Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - might - 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;



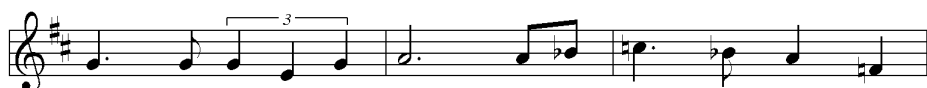
glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



② 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.

For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,

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. 266)

1 Kings 3:5-12

Our first scripture reading is from the Old Testament, the First Book of Kings, chapter three, beginning with verse five.

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, alt-

hough 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."

This is God's word.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM (*Pew Bible p. 496*)

Psalm 119:129-136

Our Psalm for today is Psalm one hundred nineteen, verses one hundred twenty-nine through one hundred thirty-six. I invite the congregation to read it aloud with me.

¹²⁹ **Your decrees are wonderful;
therefore my soul keeps them.**

¹³⁰ **The unfolding of your words gives light;
it imparts understanding to the simple.**

¹³¹ **With open mouth I pant,
because I long for your commandments.**

¹³² **Turn to me and be gracious to me,
as is your custom toward those who love your name.**

¹³³ **Keep my steps steady according to your promise,
and never let iniquity have dominion over me.**

¹³⁴ **Redeem me from human oppression,
that I may keep your precepts.**

¹³⁵ **Make your face shine upon your servant,
and teach me your statutes.**

¹³⁶ **My eyes shed streams of tears
because your law is not kept.**

This is God's word.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND LESSON (*Pew Bible p. 919*)

Romans 8:26-39

Our second lesson comes from the New Testament, the Apostle Paul's

letter to the church in Rome, chapter eight, beginning with verse twenty-six.

²⁶ Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷ And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸ We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹ What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³ Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? ³⁶ As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

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.

This is God's word.

Thanks be to God.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

p. 188





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

THE HOLY GOSPEL (Pew Bible p. 795) **Matthew 13:31-33,44-52**
The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, chapter thirteen, beginning with verse thirty-one.
Glory to you, O Lord.

³¹ [Jesus] put before [the crowds] 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.”

³³ He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”...

⁴⁴ “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶ on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸ when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹ So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹ “Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” ⁵² And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

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

Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness,
and all these things shall be added unto you.

Allelu, alleluia.

Man shall not live by bread alone but by ev'ry word
that proceeds from the mouth of God.

Allelu, alleluia.

Ask and it shall be given unto you; Seek and ye shall find;
Knock and the door shall be opened unto you.

Allelu, alleluia.

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THE SERMON

PASTOR MIKE KNAUFF

“Mustard Seeds and Roller Coasters”

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.”)

SPECIAL MUSIC

MICHELLE HANSON

"Give Thanks"

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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

#752 *"Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying"*

#775 *"Jesus, Priceless Treasure"*

#404 *"Come, Gracious Spirit, Heavenly Dove"*

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

"God of Grace and God of Glory"

#705

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- SEASON UNDERWAY:

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 26TH - Tautphaus Park @ 6:30pm vs CCC Red

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 sandwich topping (lettuce, tomato, bacon...), side dish, or dessert to share. Please sign up on the Dream Team Deli display near the Welcome Window in the narthex. 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.

RALLY DAY (START OF SUNDAY SCHOOL):

Sunday School fall start-up is just around the corner. Come celebrate the kickoff on August 30th at 9:00 am.

WE NEED YOU!

It takes a village to raise up our children in God's faith. We need volunteers who have a passion to teach God's word. Or maybe you just want to be an assistant to help satisfy our 'two deep' policy. Or are you more of a behind-the-scenes type? Whatever your gifts are, we have a way to serve our team. Contact Heather at 208-522-9301 or youth@firstlc.com for more information. Volunteer orientation will be held on August 23rd after church.

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. The worship bulletins 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.



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; Betty Benjamin; Charlotte Benson; Dean Benson; Kevin Call; Tracy Coburn; Margaret Contor; Devyn, Corden & 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:

Kären Bateman; Susan Hindman; Laura Hundley; Pastor Mike Knauff; Ashley [Mitchell]

OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHIES TO:

- 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 7/26/2026	
10:15 am	Sunday Worship - Sanctuary
11:30 am	Fellowship Hour - Fellowship Hall
MONDAY 7/27/2026	
10:00 am	Staff Meeting - Library
9am-5pm	Happy Stitchers' Stay-In-Retreat
TUESDAY 7/28/2026	
9am-5pm	Happy Stitchers' Stay-In-Retreat
6:30 pm	Financial Peace University - Library
WEDNESDAY 7/29/2026	
9am-5pm	Happy Stitchers' Stay-In-Retreat
6:00 pm	Dream Team Deli Nite - Fellowship Hall
THURSDAY 7/30/2026	
9am-5pm	Happy Stitchers' Stay-In-Retreat
10:00 am	Kaffeeklatsch - Library
FRIDAY 7/31/2026	
9am-5pm	Happy Stitchers' Stay-In-Retreat
SATURDAY 8/1/2026	
SUNDAY 8/2/2026	
10:15 am	Sunday Worship - Sanctuary
11:30 am	Fellowship Hour - Fellowship Hall

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

Greeters: Anne Mitchell, Sheryl Schaffer

Reader: Marda Kirkwood

**Communion Assistants: Diane Sheldon
Deb Nowatzki**

Usher Coordinator: Ryan Dixon

Ushers: Scott Berger, Greg Stultz

Counters: Greg & Kathy Katainen

Altar Guild: Cathi Bean & Diana Murphy

Collection Specialist: Andrew Swenson

Streaming Technician: Paul Bayless

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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:116, Live Stream:30