



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

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Sept 6, 2026

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost/Labor Day Weekend

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**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.
- ◆ 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

SEE INSERT

*"All Creatures of Our God and King"*

## *All Creatures of Our God and King*

All creatures of our God and King, lift up your voice with us and sing:  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

O burning sun with golden beam and silver moon with softer gleam:  
Oh, praise him! Oh, praise him! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

O rushing wind and breezes soft, O clouds that ride the winds aloft:  
Oh, praise him! Alleluia!

O rising morn, in praise rejoice, O lights of evening, find a voice.  
Oh, praise him! Oh, praise him! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

O flowing waters, pure and clear, make music for your Lord to hear.  
Oh, praise him! Alleluia!

O fire so masterful and bright, providing us with warmth and light,  
Oh, praise him! Oh, praise him! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Dear mother earth, who day by day unfolds rich blessings on our way.  
Oh, praise him! Alleluia!

The fruits and flow'rs that verdant grow, let them his praise abundant  
show.

Oh, praise him! Oh, praise him! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

O ev'ryone of tender heart, forgiving others, take your part,  
Oh, praise him! Alleluia!

All you who pain and sorrow bear, praise God and lay on him your  
care.

Oh, praise him! Oh, praise him! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

And you, most kind and gentle death, waiting to hush our final breath,  
Oh, praise him! Alleluia!

You lead to heav'n the child of God, where Christ our Lord the way  
has trod.

Oh, praise him! Oh, praise him! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Let all things their Creator bless and worship God in humbleness.  
Oh, praise him! Alleluia!

Oh, praise the Father, praise the Son, and praise the Spirit, Three in  
One,

Oh, praise him! Oh, praise him! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

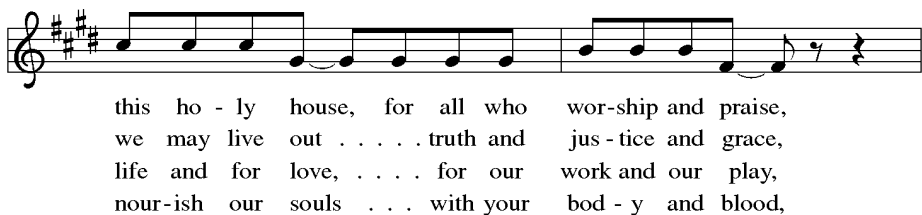
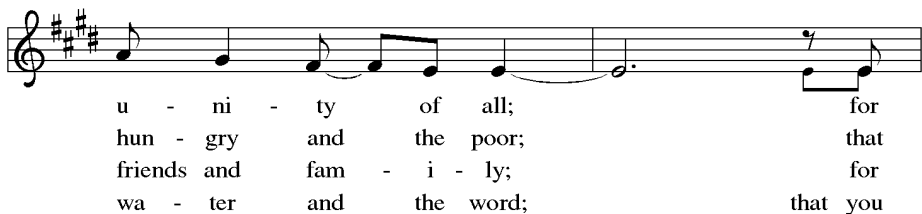
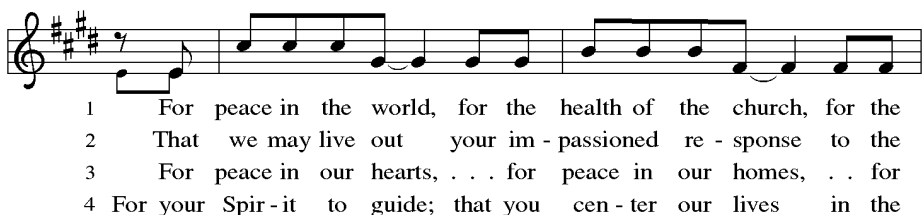
## APOSTOLIC GREETING

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





☐ 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 - ty 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;



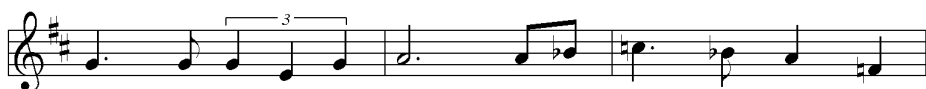
glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



☐ 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.

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. 42)

Genesis 50:15-21

Our first scripture reading is from the Old Testament, the book of Genesis, chapter fifty, beginning with verse fifteen.

<sup>15</sup> 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?" <sup>16</sup> So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, <sup>17</sup> '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. <sup>18</sup> Then his brothers

also wept, fell down before him, and said, “We are here as your slaves.”<sup>19</sup> But Joseph said to them, “Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God?<sup>20</sup> 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.<sup>21</sup> So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones.” In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

This is God’s word.

**Thanks be to God.**

SECOND LESSON (*Pew Bible p. 923*)

Romans 14:1-12

Our second lesson comes from the New Testament, the Apostle Paul’s letter to the church in Rome, chapter fourteen, beginning with verse one.

<sup>1</sup> Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. <sup>2</sup> Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. <sup>3</sup> 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. <sup>4</sup> 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.

<sup>5</sup> 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. <sup>6</sup> 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.

<sup>7</sup> For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. <sup>8</sup> 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. <sup>9</sup> For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

<sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> For it is written, “As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God.” <sup>12</sup> So then, each one of us will be held accountable.

This is the word of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

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

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. 800)

Matthew 18:21-35

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, chapter eighteen, beginning with verse twenty-one.

## Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>21</sup> 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?” <sup>22</sup> Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

<sup>23</sup> “For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. <sup>24</sup> When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, <sup>25</sup> 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. <sup>26</sup> So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ <sup>27</sup> And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. <sup>28</sup> 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.’ <sup>29</sup> Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ <sup>30</sup> But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. <sup>31</sup> 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.<sup>32</sup> Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me.’<sup>33</sup> Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’<sup>34</sup> And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt.<sup>35</sup> 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 our Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

SONG OF THE DAY

#359

*“Where Charity and Love Prevail”*

THE SERMON

PASTOR MIKE KNAUFF

“Human forgiveness is scorekeeping. Godly forgiveness is future-giving.”

## **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.**

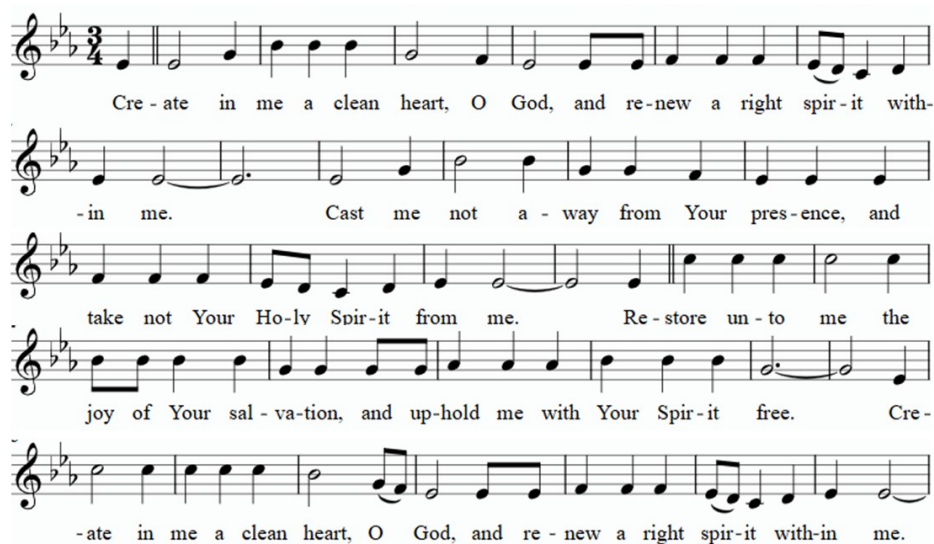
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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



## 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

#482 *"I Come with Joy"*

#606 *"Our Father, We Have Wandered"*

#867 *"In Thee Is Gladness"*

## 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

#678

*"God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending"*

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

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

# ***ANNOUNCEMENTS***

**PENNY POWER:** Last month Penny Power provided food to those who are homebound through the Senior Citizen's Center Meals On Wheels program. September Penny Power will be given to the Lutheran World Relief Gifts program. Be thinking about what ani-

mals you want to purchase for families in places where this will give them food and the ability to earn money. Pigs, goats, chickens?

**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 at [browndiann@outlook.com](mailto:browndiann@outlook.com).

**SUNDAY SCHOOL NEEDS 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](mailto:youth@firstlc.com) for more information.

**ADULT FORUM:** The Adult Forum is held weekly at 9:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. We will offer lessons that coordinate with the Sunday school lessons and the worship service lectionary. We will use the video series *That the World May Know* when the series covers the lesson. The video series is led by biblical scholar Ray Vander Laan. The lessons are scriptural, archeological, historical, and geographical tours of the Holy Lands. You will get to see the actual sites where the events happened. Bring your popcorn - and a friend!

**BIBLE STUDY FELLOWSHIP:** BSF is studying the book of Romans this year. Classes begin Wednesday, September 16, but you are welcome to join at any time.

Women's Groups:

- \* Wednesdays 9:30–11:00 am at Calvary Baptist Church, with classes available for children and students ages 0–18.
- \* Wednesdays 6:30–8:00 pm at Christ Community Church

Men's Group:

- \* Wednesdays 6:30–8:00 pm at Christ Community Church
- Online groups are also available if these meeting times do not fit your schedule.

To register, visit [BSFinternational.org](http://BSFinternational.org) and select "Find a Group." If you want to ask questions from someone within FELC talk to Linda Lerum.

**FIREWORKS VOLUNTEER PIZZA PARTY!** To show our thanks for all your dedication and hard work, we will be hosting a pizza

party on Sunday, September 20th, after church in the youth room, for everyone who volunteered during our Fireworks Fundraiser. See you there!

**ANNUAL NURSERY CLEAN UP!** It's time for our annual cleanup to keep our nursery safe and clean! This will be happening Saturday, September 26th from 1-3 pm. Please join us if you are available. Thank you!

| <b>THIS WEEK AT FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH</b> |                                                  |
|-------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| <b> TODAY  SUNDAY 9/6/2026</b>                        |                                                  |
| 9:00 am                                               | Sunday School - Education Wing                   |
| 9:00 am                                               | Adult Forum - Fellowship Hall                    |
| 9:00 am                                               | Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary                      |
| 10:15 am                                              | Sunday Worship - Sanctuary                       |
| 11:30 am                                              | Fellowship Hour - Fellowship Hall                |
| 11:30 am                                              | King's Men Rehearsal - Sanctuary                 |
| <b>MONDAY 9/7/2026</b>                                |                                                  |
|                                                       | <b>Labor Day &lt; Office Closed &gt;</b>         |
| <b>TUESDAY 9/8/2026</b>                               |                                                  |
| 9:00 am                                               | Happy Stitchers - Fellowship Hall                |
| 10:00 am                                              | Nominating Committee Meeting - Library           |
| 12:00 pm                                              | Gathering in Grace Ladies' Bible Study - Library |
| 6:00 pm                                               | Girl Scout Troop #930 - Fellowship Hall          |
| 6:30 pm                                               | Handbell Rehearsal - Sanctuary                   |
| 6:30 pm                                               | Financial Peace University - Library             |
| <b>WEDNESDAY 9/9/2026</b>                             |                                                  |
| 2:00 pm                                               | Ladies' Bible Study - Library                    |
| 5:00 pm                                               | Praise Band Rehearsal - Sanctuary                |
| <b>THURSDAY 9/10/2026</b>                             |                                                  |
| 9:00 am                                               | Preschool Orientation: Morning Class             |
| 10:00 am                                              | Kaffeeklatsch - Library                          |
| 1:00 pm                                               | Preschool Orientation: Afternoon Class           |
| 5:00 pm                                               | Finance Team Meeting - Library                   |
| <b>FRIDAY 9/11/2026</b>                               |                                                  |
| 10am-4pm                                              | Friends in Stitches - Fellowship Hall            |
| <b>SATURDAY 9/12/2026</b>                             |                                                  |
|                                                       |                                                  |
| <b>SUNDAY 9/13/2026</b>                               |                                                  |
| 9:00 am                                               | Sunday School - Education Wing                   |
| 9:00 am                                               | Adult Forum - Fellowship Hall                    |
| 9:00 am                                               | Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary                      |
| 10:15 am                                              | Sunday Worship - Sanctuary                       |
| 11:30 am                                              | Fellowship Hour - Fellowship Hall                |
| 11:30 am                                              | King's Men Rehearsal - Sanctuary                 |



## 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](mailto: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; Tom Amundson; Charlotte Benson; Dean Benson; Kevin Call; Bailey Chamberlain; Carol Clark; Tracy Coburn; 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; Mary Krippner; Pat Lance; Austin Leger; Allan Magnuson; Mike Martin; Adara McClure; Bob McGee; Tim Metcalf; Vicky Mickelson; Cal Miller; Wendy Morgan; Bob Neff; Josh Neis; Don Newman; Heidi Packer; Mary Pilkington; Mark Pischer; Patricia Richardson; Camille Ronnebaum; Julie Sagnimeni; Laura Schoonmaker; Betty Smith; Jason & Kelly Smith; Joyce Stultz; Julie Sundberg; Kathy Tauscher; Deborah Vavra; Linn Watson; Chris Weaver; Joyce White; Daniel & Sarah Young

### OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHIES TO:

- ♦ Friends and family of Paul Bayless, whose father passed away on August 18th.

## **WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS**

Greeters: **Michelle Cleverly, Mary Pilkington**  
Liturgist: **Sheryl Schaffer**  
Communion Assistants: **Diane Sheldon, Debra Hogg**  
**Carole Mason, Cheryl Swenson, Deb Nowatzki**  
Usher Coordinator: **Dave Sheldon**  
Ushers: **Lisa Swenson, Scott Berger**  
Counters: **Lisa Swenson, Paul Bayless**  
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](mailto:pastormike@firstlc.com)  
**Church Administrator:** Julie Sagnimeni ..... e-mail: [office@firstlc.com](mailto:office@firstlc.com)  
**Family Minister:** Heather Catanese ..... e-mail: [youth@firstlc.com](mailto:youth@firstlc.com)  
**Bookkeeper:** Greg Stultz ..... e-mail: [bookkeeper@firstlc.com](mailto:bookkeeper@firstlc.com)  
**Music Director:** Michelle Hanson ..... e-mail: [musicdirector@firstlc.com](mailto: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](mailto:flpreschoolif@gmail.com)

Office hours: Monday - Thursday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm, Friday Closed  
Web Page: [www.firstlc.com](http://www.firstlc.com) • Phone: 208-522-9301

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### **Report of First Evangelical Lutheran Church**

Year to date Income thru June \$213,121; Year to date Expenses thru June \$193,475  
Year to date net Cash Flow thru June \$19,646  
Last Week's in Worship Attendance:151, Live Stream:59