April 26, 2026 ☩

Fourth Sunday of Easter

We welcome you to First Lutheran Church!

"God's Work. Our Hands. To serve ALL people."

An asterisk * invites you to stand in body or in spirit, and you are invited to read aloud responses found in **bold.**

P: Indicates the Presider. AM: Indicates the Assisting Minister.

We Gather

Prelude "At the Lamb's High Feast" - Jan Bender

Words of Welcome

***Gathering Hymn** - no. 362 v. 1,2,6,7 "At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing"

***Thanksgiving for Baptism**

Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!** Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb! **Amen.** Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister continues.

Merciful God, you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come. You lead us beside still waters. We thank you for the waters of creation: morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves. We thank you for the waters that nourish us. Blessed are you. **You guide us to springs of the water of life.** Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness who accompanies us on our journeys. We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection. We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow. Blessed are you. **You guide us to springs of the water of life.** Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows. Break down barriers that divide us. Fill us with the breath of peace. Blessed are you. **You guide us to springs of the water of life.** Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism, and for making us a new creation. We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise, now and forever. **Amen.**

***Apostolic Greeting** P**:** 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** – page 147, *from ELW Setting Four*

*__Hymn of Praise__ - page 149, *from ELW Setting Four*

*__Prayer of the Day__ -

P: O God our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Temple Talk – FLC Fall Festival by Gabriela Roemhildt

We Listen to God's Word

First Reading: Acts 2:42-47

42 The baptized devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of
bread and the prayers. 43 Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being
done through the apostles. 44 All who believed were together and had all things in common;
45 they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had
need. 46 Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home
and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, 47 praising God and having the goodwill of all
the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

*__Psalm 23-__ no. 502 "The King of Love My Shepherd Is"

Second Reading: 1 Peter 2:19-25

19 It is a commendable thing if, being aware of God, a person endures pain while suffering
unjustly. 20 If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you
endure when you do good and suffer for it, this is a commendable thing before God. 21 For to this
you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you
should follow in his steps.

22 "He committed no sin,
and no deceit was found in his mouth."

23 When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but he
entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. 24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the
cross, so that, having died to sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been
healed. 25 For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and
guardian of your souls.

Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

***Gospel Acclamation** – page 151, *from ELW Setting Four*

***Gospel:** John 10: 1-10

The Gospel of John, the 10th Chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] [1] "Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but
climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. [2] The one who enters by the gate is the
shepherd of the sheep. [3] The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He
calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. [4] When he has brought out all his own, he goes
ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. [5] They will not follow a
stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." [6] Jesus
used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.
[7] So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. [8] All who
came before me are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them. [9] I am the gate.
Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. [10] The thief
comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."

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

Sermon – Pastor Chris Culuris

***Hymn** –no. 780 "Shepherd Me, O God"

***The Nicene Creed** –
Together let us profess our faith.
We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*__Prayers of Intercession__
AM: Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation. *After each petition*: Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

AM: God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. **Amen.**

*__Sign of Peace__ P: The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**
Please offer one another some sign of Christ's peace.

Offering – For electronic giving please scan the QR on acknowledgement page and ***Thank you!***

Offering music – "Three Easter Chorales" J.K.F Fischer, F.W. Zachau & Samuel Scheidt

*__Offering Prayer__

AM: Merciful God, accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus, **Amen.**

We Share God's Holy Meal

*__Great Thanksgiving and Preface__ – page 152, *from ELW Setting Four*

*__Holy, Holy, Holy__ – page 153, *from ELW Setting Four*

*__Words of Institution__ – page 111, *from ELW Setting One*

*__The 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 the Table__ – P: Come to the table of new life. Receive the risen Lord.

Distribution of Communion - *we will be serving communion continuously.*
Lamb of God – page 154, *from ELW Setting Four*
Hymn no. 789 "Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us"
Hymn no. 764 "Have No Fear, Little Flock"

Prayer After Communion
P: Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus, **Amen.**

We Go in Peace

Announcements

*__Sending Hymn__ – no. 774 "What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine"

*__Blessing & Dismissal__

P: God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end, Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead, and the Spirit, our advocate and peace, ☩ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

AM: Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia! **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

*__Postlude__ – Trumpet Tune in G Sam Batt Owens

In Worship Today
Pastor: Chris Culuris
Organist: David Fienen
Assisting Minister: Cheryl Kautt
Director of Choirs: Sarah Chambers

Ushers: Steve Bolint, Avery Loken
Communion Preparers: Kristy Larson, Mark and Ellen Conover
Communion Servers: Shirb and John Sylvester
Acolytes: Reese Drinkall, Max Szybnski

Tech: Charlotte Loken, Shanon Nowell
Bread Baker: Diane Stewart

Prayers: We pray for those on our long-term list: Joan Williams, Betty Gustafson, Paul Aasen, Shirley Storkson, Lenore Schnobrich, Gloria Kane, Harvey Kane, Karen Handel, Erika Schuldt, Ruth Edberg, Bob Lamb, Dorothy and Paul Lutz, Steve Erickson, Barbra Grabowski (Ted Kunze's sister), Garrett Paul, Mary Ann Scharf, David Ribar, Nate Tuener (family friend of Bob and Rhoda Stenson), Leah Crosby and baby (niece of Aileen Bipes).

Acknowledgments

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QR offering code

FLC Refrigerator Page

We wish to extend our deepest gratitude to Sarah Chambers for her incredible service as our Director of Choirs and Handbells. Sarah has shared her immense talent and dedication with our congregation, enriching our worship through the gift of music. As she takes a step back to focus on other priorities during this busy season of life, we celebrate the spirit she brought to FLC and wish her the very best!

Music remains an integral part of our life together at First Lutheran. To ensure our programs continue to thrive, the Church Council and various committees are collaborating to shape the future of our musical experiences. The Director of Choirs and Handbells role encompasses three primary areas: Handbell Choirs, Youth Choirs, Adult Choirs.

Before we look elsewhere, we want to look *within*. We are blessed with a talented community, and we invite any members interested in this position—or even a portion of it (e.g., just Handbells or just Youth Choirs)—to step forward. Please reach out to Pastor Chris, Deacon Brenda, or Kaari Bly within the next few weeks to start a conversation.

Worship, Education and Service:

- Jean and Gary Hayer will be serving during **Fellowship** after worship.
- **Final Faith Night at First for the programming year Wednesday, April 29.** Meal (5:15-6:15 pm), worship (6:15-6:45 pm) and Intergenerational Service Project of seed planting, pet food packaging and kickball – kids vs adults. Bring your tennis shoes! (6:45 – 7:30pm).
- **Last Adult Class for programming year meets in the Pioneer Parlor -** Wednesday Night April 29 at 6:45 pm with Pastor Heather Culuris for Book study on "Hope" by Jane Goodall.
- **From the Green Committee:** we have resumed collecting plastic in the entry way. Also, please consider donating produce from your personal gardens to the SPFS.
- **Bible Study** meets Monday mornings at 9:30am in the chapel.
- **Rental Assistance:** The need for emergency funds continues as many of our immigrant neighbors have not returned to work or are working part-time hours. If you would like to contribute, you can leave a check (to Good Neighbor Diversity Council," emergency fund" in memo line) or cash in an envelope marked "rental assistance" and all money collected will be dispersed through the Good Neighbor Diversity Council's Emergency Fund.
- **Flowers** on the altar are from the Roemhildt Family in honor of Mark's retirement.
- **Bruce Gray's Funeral** will be held at FLC on Friday, May 15. Visitation will be at church from 6-8pm the night before and 9-11am the day of, with the funeral beginning at 11am.

Events at FLC and around the area:

- **FLC spring concert and potluck** is this afternoon at 4 pm. Join our Cherub Choir, Children's Choir, Sanctuary Choir, FLC Wind Ensemble, and FLC Handbell Choir for a concert of fun joy-filled music. A couple of favorite hymns will be scattered in, too! A potluck to celebrate follows in the Gathering space. Families are invited to bring a dish to share.
- **"Vigil to Heal the Sick" at Riverside Hospital - St. Peter on Thursday, April 30 10 am-10pm.** to pray for and call attention to the impending closure of Hennepin County Medical Center and the recent closure of clinics across southern MN. FLC will be present for the opening at 10am and will staff the vigil from noon – 2pm. Join us for prayer, singing, stories, artwork and a public witness.

- **Adult BWCA** trip is slated for June 28th- July 2 is the if interested, call Mark Szybnski at 507-380-9180 or email him at markszybnski@gmail.com
- **Habitat for Humanity** South Central MN is holding its second annual BikeBuildHome500 Bike ride in mid-July this year. This annual week-long 500-mile bike ride fundraiser raises millions of dollars to build homes; then sells the home to a family with a no interest loan. I would welcome any donations for my ride. Checks can be made out to Habitat for Humanity South Central MN with a note of Keith Stelter in the memo line. Thank you!! Keith Stelter
- **Radium Girls at SPHS!** Presented by the Saint Peter High School's theater department on Thursday, April 30; Friday, May 1; and Saturday, May 2. 7 p.m showtime. Admission (available at door) $10 for adults and $5 for students, seniors, and staff. Don't miss FLC's own Ella Twaddle as 'Sob Sister' and Rebekah Roemhildt as 'Grace Fryer' in the show!
- We will be holding a **clean-up day at Resurrection Cemetery** on May 1 from 10:00-12:00. It will involve some trimming, stick pick up, small hole filling, raking and just general clean-up to keep our cemetery looking nice. If possible, please bring tools such as hand trimmers, rakes and shovels. **Donuts** will be provided and several of us often go to Diamond Dust for lunch when we are done. We have a small but very dedicated group of church members that usually come, but we would love to see some new faces! It's easy work, especially with more people! Even if you don't feel like you can help, come out and take a look at the cemetery to see some of the improvements that have been made such as new signage for the state hospital and a nicer appearance because of getting many stones repaired. Mike Stewart, Cemetery Committee Chairperson