August 30, 2026 ☩
Hymn Sing Sunday

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 hymns – no. 756, vs. 1 and 4 "Eternal Father, Strong to Save"
no. 638, vs. 1 and 3 "Blessed Assurance"

Words of Welcome

Gathering hymn – no. 858, vs. 1,3,4 "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

***Confession and Forgiveness**

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

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 is kept 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.**

Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, 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.**
***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** – no. 752 "Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying"

***Hymn of Praise** – no. 836 vs. 1 and 3 "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee"

***Prayer of the Day** P: O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

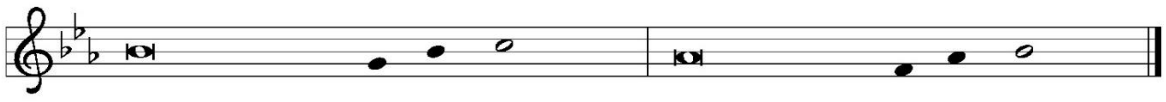
We Listen to God's Word

First Reading: Jeremiah 15:15-21

15 O LORD, you know; remember me and visit me, and bring down retribution for me on my
persecutors. In your forbearance do not take me away; know that on your account I suffer insult.
16 Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of
my heart, for I am called by your name, O LORD, God of hosts. 17 I did not sit in the company of
merrymakers, nor did I rejoice; under the weight of your hand I sat alone, for you had filled me
with indignation. 18 Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed?
Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail.

19 Therefore thus says the LORD: If you turn back, I will take you back, and you shall stand
before me. If you utter what is precious and not what is worthless, you shall serve as my mouth.
It is they who will turn to you, not you who will turn to them. 20 And I will make you to this
people a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail over you,
for I am with you to save you and deliver you, says the LORD. 21 I will deliver you out of the hand
of the wicked and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.
Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 26: 1-8 – *we will sing the psalm responsively, assembly responds with bold print.*



Give judgment for me, O LORD, for I have lived | with integrity;
I have trusted in the LORD and | have not faltered.
1 **Give judgment for me, O LORD, for I have lived | with integrity;**
I have trusted in the LORD and | have not faltered.

2 Test me, O | LORD, and try me;
examine my heart | and my mind.
3 **For your steadfast love is be- | fore my eyes;**
I have walked faithful- | ly with you.
4 I have not sat | with the worthless,
nor do I consort with | the deceitful.
5 **I have hated the company of | evildoers;**
I will not sit down | with the wicked.
6 I will wash my hands in inno- | cence, O LORD,
that I may go in procession | round your altar,
7 **singing aloud a song | of thanksgiving**
and recounting all your won- | derful deeds.
8 **LORD, I love the house in | which you dwell**
and the place where your glo- | ry abides.

Second Reading: Romans 12:9-21

9 Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; 10 love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. 11 Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. 12 Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. 13 Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers.

14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. 16 Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. 17 Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. 18 If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. 19 Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord." 20 Instead, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

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

***Gospel Acclamation** – no. 379, vs. 1,3,4 "Now the Green Blade Rises"

***Gospel:** Matthew 16:21-28

Before the reading: The Gospel of Matthew, the 16th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

21 From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and on the third day be raised. 22 And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." 23 But he

turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me, for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

24 Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. 25 For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. 26 For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?
27 “For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. 28 Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

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

Sermon – Pastor Chris Culuris

Hymn of the day – no. 808 “Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song"

***The Apostles Creed**

P: Together let us profess our faith:

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.

***Prayers of Intercession** –

AM: With bold trust in God’s unfailing provision, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God’s creation.
At the conclusion of each petition: Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**
AM: Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised. All this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **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 see Refrigerator Page for QR code and ***Thank you!***

Offering Music: string trio

*__Offering Prayer__

AM: Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever. **Amen.**

We Share God's Holy Meal

Great Thanksgiving - *(spoken)*

The Lord be with you. **And also 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.**

The thanksgiving continues with the preface, the assembly responds:

Sanctus – no. 413, vs. 1 "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty!"

*__Words of Institution and The Lord's Prayer__

> Together let us pray as Jesus taught us saying: **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

*__Invitation to the Table__ – P: Heaven has come near. Come, share in the feast!

Distribution of Communion - *we will be serving Holy Communion continuously.*

Hymns during communion:

no. 733 "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

no. 697 "Just a Closer Walk with Thee"

Prayer After Communion
P: Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever. **Amen.**

We Go in Peace

Announcements

*__Sending Hymn__ – ACS 942 *see back page* "Every Time I Feel the Spirit"

*__Blessing & Dismissal__

P: Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, ☩ one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always.
Amen.
AM: Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!
Thanks be to God.

Postlude – "Light Dawns on a Weary World"

In Worship today:

Pastor: Chris Culuris
Musician: Deacon Brenda Handel-Johnson
Assisting Minister: Aileen Bipes
String trio – Mary Normandin, violin
Beth Thoms, viola
John Bipes, cello

Ushers: John Nadeau
Communion Preparers: Mary Thompson
Communion Servers: Carolyn Trnka, Cindy Nadeau

Bread Baker: Nancy Thorkelson
Audio/Video: Rachel Ribar

Prayers: We pray for those on our long-term list: Betty Gustafson, Paul Aasen, Karen Handel, Erika Schuldt, Ruth Edberg, Bob Lamb, Dorothy and Paul Lutz, Steve Erickson, Barbra Grabowski (Ted Kunze's sister), Garrett and Betsy Paul, Mary Ann Scharf, Kay Moline, Kevin Nicholson (Betty Thompson's nephew), Leah Crosby and baby (niece of Aileen Bipes), Hazel Adelman (niece of Mary Gaebler), Lisa Handel-Dalvand, family of Barb Moss (friend of Deacon Brenda).

Acknowledgments
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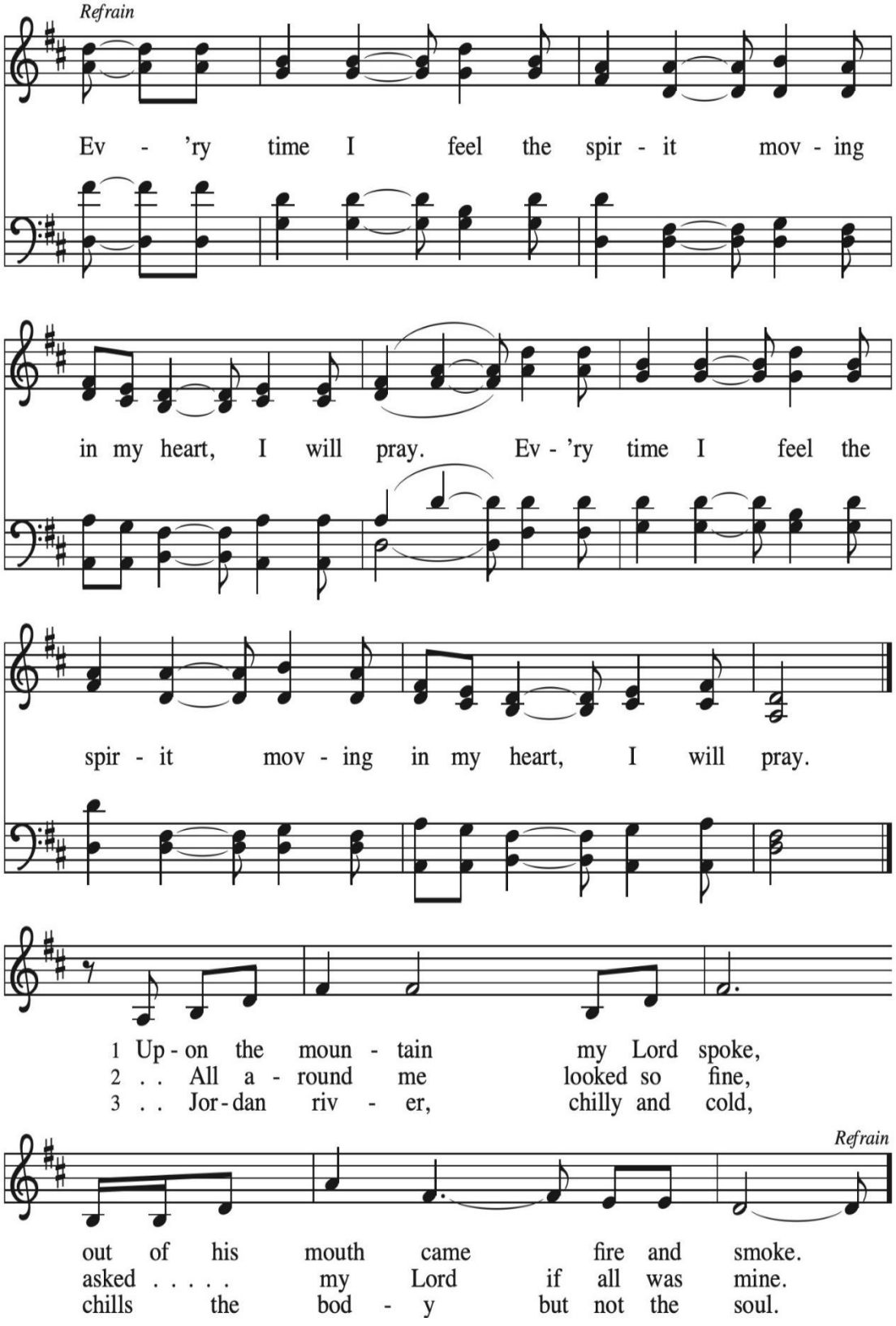
Every Time I Feel the Spirit

FLC Refrigerator Page - take this home with you!

Worship, Education and Service:

- **Fellowship** will be provided and served by Gary and Jean Hayer.
- **Rental Assistance:** The need for emergency funds continues as many of our immigrant neighbors who have been recently released were told NOT to return to work. All money collected is dispersed through the Good Neighbor Diversity Council's Emergency Fund.
- **Personal care donation for SPAF:** FLC is collecting toothbrushes during August and dish soap in September. Place any donations in the grocery cart in the Gathering space. Thank you.
- **Thank You** to Carol Solberg and Mary Lynn Ditsch for your help with the newsletter.

Events at FLC and around the area:

- **Mark your calendars and join us for the Rally night on September 16. Faith night at First** resumes with nourishment for body and soul for all. Each week a meal is served between 5:15-6:15 pm; Worship – 6:15-6:45 pm; Education – 6:45 pm – 7:30 pm. Contact Deacon Brenda if you can assist in team teaching this fall or lead an Adult Ed class or discussion.
- **Coffee and Conversation**- The CCM committee invites you to Diamond Dust Bakery on the second Tuesday of each month for a casual gathering of fellowship, coffee and conversation. It is a chance to connect with old friends and meet new ones! Our first outing will be Tuesday, September 8 at 10:00 am. All are welcome- feel free to bring a friend.
- **Chankaska Creek Winery outing** - Please join fellow FLC members for a relaxed time of Fellowship on Sunday, September 20th! We will meet at the winery at 4:00 pm, (after the Vikings game). If you would like to carpool, please meet in the FLC parking lot at 3:40. We are planning to be outdoors, but we do have a backup plan if it rains. Hope to see you there.
- **FLC Watch Party - Tuesday, September 22,** Join with others for the Fretheim Lecture in Biblical Theology with Craig Koester. "The Death of Jesus and the Message of Life: According to the Gospel of John" 6-8:30 pm - Livestream event - FLC Dining Hall.
- **September is "God's Work. Our Hands." month of service - opportunities to serve:**
  - Singalong/visiting – Benedictine Nursing Home - Thursday, Sept 10 - 2 pm
  - Union Shelter clean up or Tie quilts at FLC - Sunday, September 13 -11 am
  - Singalong/visiting - Benedictine Court - Tuesday, Sept 22 - 2 pm
  - Ecumen Prairie Hill singing and visiting – Friday, September 25 - 2 pm
  - Doubles Dice at Benedictine Nursing Home - date TBA
- **Fall Festival Plans Underway**
  Plans for the First Fall Festival are moving forward on Sunday, October 11 from 2 - 4 p.m. We recently received a $1,000 grant from the Chamber of Commerce to offset advertising expenses! Lots of help is still needed - look for a sign-up sheet in the gathering space today! Contact Gabriela Roemhildt for more information, 507-420-9566.

Offering code