July 12, 2026 ☩

7th Sunday after Pentecost

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 – "Water" (based on O Waly Waly) arr. Chris de Silva

Words of Welcome

***Gathering Hymn** ACS 1063 (See back page for music) "God of the Fertile Fields"

***Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity,☩ one God,
whose compassion endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God, **we confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. Restore us to dwell in your peace.**
In Christ's name we pray, Amen.
Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.
" In the name of God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,
your sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love.
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 184, *ELW Setting Eight*
***Hymn of Praise** – page 185, *ELW Setting Eight*

***Prayer of the Day -**
Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen

We Listen to God's Word

First Reading: Isaiah 55:10-13

10 For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
11 so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

12 For you shall go out in joy
and be led back in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you
shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.
13 Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle,
and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial,
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

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

Psalm: *the psalm will be spoken responsively by whole verse* Psalm 65: 1-13

1 You are to be praised, O God, in Zion;
to you shall vows be fulfilled.
2 **To you, the one who answers prayer,**
to you all flesh shall come.
3 Our sins are stronger than we are,
but you blot out our transgressions.
4 **Happy are they whom you choose and draw to your courts to dwell there!**
They will be satisfied by the beauty of your house, by the holiness of your temple.

5 Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness, O God of our salvation,
O hope of all the ends of the earth and of the oceans far away.
6 **You make firm the mountains by your power;**
you are girded about with might.
7 You still the roaring of the seas,
the roaring of their waves, and the clamor of the peoples.
8 **Those who dwell at the ends of the earth will tremble at your marvelous signs;**
you make the dawn and the dusk to sing for joy.
9 You visit the earth and water it abundantly; you make it very plenteous; the river of God is full of water.
You prepare the grain, for so you provide for the earth.
10 **You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges;**
with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its increase.
11 You crown the year with your goodness,
and your paths overflow with plenty.
12 **May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing,**
and the hills be clothed with joy.
13 May the meadows cover themselves with flocks, and the valleys cloak themselves with grain;
let them shout for joy and sing.

Second Reading: Romans 8:1-11

Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. 3 For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, 4 so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. 5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. 6 To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. 7 For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed, it cannot, 8 and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

9 But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. 10 But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 11 If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

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

*__Gospel Acclamation__ – page 188, *ELW Setting Eight*

*__Gospel:__ Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23

The Gospel of Matthew, the 13th Chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

1 That day Jesus went out of the house and sat down beside the lake. 2 Such large crowds
gathered around him that he climbed into a boat and sat down. The whole crowd was standing
on the shore. 3 He said many things to them in parables: "A farmer went out to scatter seed. 4 As
he was scattering seed, some fell on the path, and birds came and ate it. 5 Other seed fell on
rocky ground where the soil was shallow. They sprouted immediately because the soil wasn't
deep. 6 But when the sun came up, it scorched the plants, and they dried up because they had
no roots. 7 Other seed fell among thorny plants. The thorny plants grew and choked
them. 8 Other seed fell on good soil and bore fruit, in one case a yield of one hundred to one, in
another case a yield of sixty to one, and in another case a yield of thirty to one. 9 Everyone who
has ears should pay attention."

18 "Consider then the parable of the farmer. 19 Whenever people hear the word about the
kingdom and don't understand it, the evil one comes and carries off what was planted in their
hearts. This is the seed that was sown on the path. 20 As for the seed that was spread on rocky
ground, this refers to people who hear the word and immediately receive it joyfully. 21 Because
they have no roots, they last for only a little while. When they experience distress or abuse
because of the word, they immediately fall away. 22 As for the seed that was spread among
thorny plants, this refers to those who hear the word, but the worries of this life and the false
appeal of wealth choke the word, and it bears no fruit. 23 As for what was planted on good soil,
this refers to those who hear and understand, and bear fruit and produce—in one case a yield of
one hundred to one, in another case a yield of sixty to one, and in another case a yield of thirty
to one.

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

Sermon - Deacon Brenda Handel-Johnson

*__Hymn__ (music on next page)– "Bring Forth the Kingdom of Mercy"

*__The Apostles' Creed –__
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: Trusting in God's steadfast love for all God has made, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation. *After each petition*: God of grace, **hear our prayer.**
Sing this at the beginning and the end of the prayers of intercession:

AM: Into your mercy, O God, we entrust our restless hearts and all our cares, through Jesus Christ, our 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 – "For the Beauty of the Earth" Vocal duet

*__Offering Prayer__

AM: Blessed are you, O God, for waves of grain and harvesters, fruitful vines and winepresses, for our labor and our rest, for the gifts of your hand in this land. Transform us and what we offer into the banquet of your compassion, serving your love without limits through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

We Share God's Holy Meal

*__Great Thanksgiving and Preface__ (spoken) – page 190, *ELW Setting Eight*

*__Holy, Holy, Holy__ – page 190, *ELW Setting Eight*

*__Words of Institution__ – page 108-109, *ELW Setting One*

*__The Lord's Prayer –__

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: Citizens of the commonwealth of heaven: Taste and know that God is good to all.

Distribution of Communion - *we will be serving communion at the rail today.*
"I am the Bread of Life" Toolan, arr. John Carter
Hymn - no. 512 "Lord Let My Heart Be Good Soil"
Hymn - no. 734 "God Whose Farm is All Creation"

Prayer After Communion
P: We thank you, God of heaven and earth, that you fill our deepest need with the very gift of Jesus Christ, broken and poured out for us. Pour us out into a broken world. Channel our common life toward the common good, following the way our Savior leads us now and forever. **Amen.**

We Go in Peace

Announcements

*__Sending Hymn__ – no. 679 "For the Fruit of All Creation"

*__Blessing & Dismissal__

P: The Author of life, the Word of salvation, the Breath of new birth, ☩ one God, bless you and equip you for living and serving, today and every day. **Amen.**
AM: Go in peace. Seek liberty and justice for all. **Thanks be to God.**

*__Postlude__ *Molto vivace* (from Sonata 53 in e minor) -- Franz Josef Haydn

In Worship Today
Presider: Pastor Carl Bruihler
Preacher: Deacon Brenda Handel-Johnson
Service pianist: David Fienen
Assisting Minister: Mary Spear

Guest Pianist: John Biebighauser
Vocalists: Brianne Twaddle, Ella Twaddle
Ushers: Tom Thorkleson
Communion Preparers: Mary Kay Bruihler, Mary Thompson
Communion Servers:

Tech: Brad Chambers
Bread Baker: Diane Stewart

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 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).

Acknowledgments

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God of the Fertile Fields

FLC Refrigerator Page

Worship, Education and Service:

- **Fellowship** will be provided and served by Carol Solberg and Betty Thompson.
- **FLC Director of Choirs and Handbells position is open.** If you are interested in applying for this position to lead Youth and Adult Choirs, or Handbells, please contact Kaari Bly, Pastor Chris, or Deacon Brenda.
- **Rental Assistance:** The need for emergency funds continues as many of our immigrant neighbors have not returned to work. All money collected will be dispersed through the Good Neighbor Diversity Council's Emergency Fund.
- **Personal care donation for SPAF:** FLC is collecting bar soap and laundry detergent during July. Place any donations in the grocery cart in the Gathering space. Thank you!
- **Deacon Brenda will be away** on continuing education from July 13 – 16. She is participating in the Habitat for Humanity Bike Ride on July 17.

Events at FLC and around the area:

- **The Church will be closed** on July 13 and 14 while the parking lot is being paved.
- **Free Tickets are available for J.S. Bach's St. Matthew Passion** on Wednesday, July 15, 2026 at Boe Memorial Chapel – St Olaf College, Northfield at 7:00pm as part of the ALCM Music Conference. This concert is free and open to the public, but tickets are required. To reserve a seat: https://www.lsmacademy.org/calendar/smp26 The Passion will also be livestreamed.
- **The next Hike or Bike night will be on Wednesday, July 29 6:30-7:30 pm.** We will again try including a stop at Sota Scoops.
- **Reminder: Worship and Arts** Committee will meet next Sunday, July 19 following worship.
- **Vacation Bible School** will be held at FLC, August 2 – 6, from 5:30 – 8 pm, for youth Age 4 – Grade 6. Staffers from Camp Shetek will lead the week themed "Wear Love". FLC youth and adult helpers are needed. Service Hours will be given to any NHS or Confirmation students who assist. To register go to: flcstp.org
- You are invited to **bring a few fresh garden flowers to our Outdoor-Service-Indoors**, next Sunday July 19, to help with keeping God's Creation present. Green Committee members will have vases and baskets ready for your floral offering. Thank you.