July 19, 2026 ☩

8th 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 – "Blessed Be Your Name" (Matt and Beth Redman, revised by Steve Kidder)

"Jesus is the Rock and He Rolls My Blues Away" (Tony Congi)

Words of Welcome

***Gathering Hymn** - no. 689 "Praise and Thanksgiving"

***Confession and Forgiveness**

P: 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** – no. 821 "Shout to the Lord"

***Prayer of the Day -**
P: Faithful God, most merciful judge, you care for your children with firmness and compassion. By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

We Listen to God's Word

First Reading: Isaiah 44:6-8

6 Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel,
and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts:
I am the first, and I am the last;
besides me there is no god.
7 Who is like me? Let them proclaim it;
let them declare and set it forth before me.
Who has announced from of old the things to come?
Let them tell us what is yet to be.
8 Do not fear or be afraid;
have I not told you from of old and declared it?
You are my witnesses!
Is there any god besides me?
There is no other rock; I know not one.

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

Psalm: *the psalm will be spoken responsively by whole verse* Psalm 86:11-17

11 Teach me your way, O LORD, and I will walk in your truth;
give me an undivided heart to revere your name.
12 **I will thank you, O Lord my God, with all my heart,**
and glorify your name for evermore.
13 For great is your love toward me;
you have delivered me from the pit of death.
14 **The arrogant rise up against me, O God, and a band of violent people seeks my life;**
they have not set you before their eyes.
15 But you, O Lord, are gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger, and full of kindness and truth.
16 **Turn to me and have mercy on me;**
give your strength to your servant, and save the child of your handmaid.

17 Show me a sign of your favor, so that those who hate me may see it and be put to shame;
because you, LORD, have helped me and comforted me.

Second Reading: Romans 8:12-25

12 So then, brothers and sisters, we are obligated, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—
13 for if you live according to the flesh, you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds
of the body, you will live. 14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. 15 For you
did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption.
When we cry, "Abba! Father!" 16 it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are
children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs: heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if we in
fact suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

18 I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory
about to be revealed to us. 19 For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the
children of God, 20 for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but by the will of
the one who subjected it, in hope 21 that the creation itself will be set free from its enslavement
to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. 22 We know that the
whole creation has been groaning together as it suffers together the pains of labor, 23 and not
only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while
we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. 24 For in hope we were saved. Now hope
that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what one already sees? 25 But if we hope for what we
do not see, we wait for it with patience.

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

***Gospel Acclamation** – page 188, *ELW Setting Eight*

***Gospel:** Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43

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

24 [Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to
someone who sowed good seed in his field,25 but while everybody was asleep an enemy came
and sowed weeds among the wheat and then went away. 26 So when the plants came up and
bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. 27 And the slaves of the householder came and said
to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come
from?' 28 He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us
to go and gather them?' 29 But he replied, 'No, for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the
wheat along with them. 30 Let both of them grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time
I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather
the wheat into my barn.' "

36 Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying,
"Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." 37 He answered, "The one who sows the
good seed is the Son of Man; 38 the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the
kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, 39 and the enemy who sowed them is the
devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. 40 Just as the weeds are
collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. 41 The Son of Man will send
his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, 42 and they
will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of
teeth. 43 Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone
with ears listen!""

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

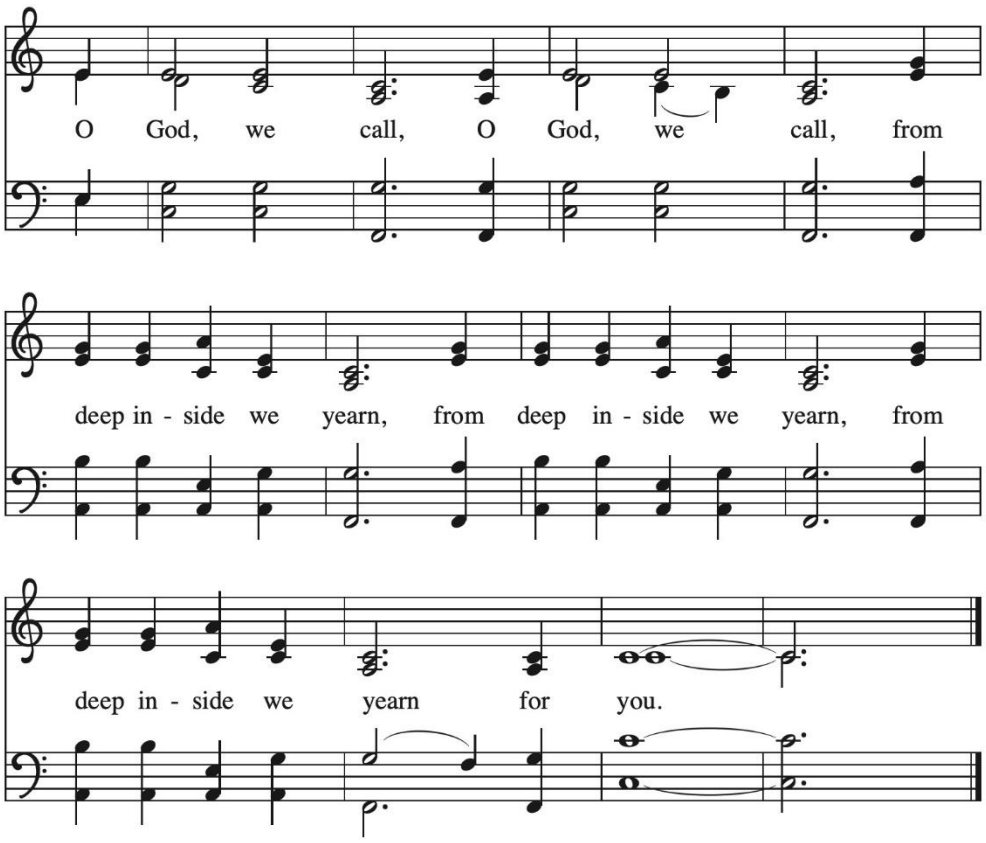
Sermon - Pastor Chris Culuris

*__Hymn__ - no. 697 "Just a Closer Walk with Thee"

*__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.**

"O God We Call" - sing as directed

O God, We Call

AM: Grateful for your abundant provision and trusting in your goodness, we cast all our cares upon you, through the abundant grace of Christ Jesus. **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 - "Commands of God" (Steve Kidder)

*__Offering Hymn__ - no. 692 "We Are an Offering"

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

*__Holy, Holy, Holy__ – no. 473 "Santo, santo, santo"

*__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: Heaven has come near. Come, share in the feast!

Distribution of Communion – *Please remain seated. We will come to you today.*
Hymn - no. 465 "As the Grains of Wheat"
Hymn - "Lord, You Are"
LORD, You are more precious than silver
LORD, You are more costly than gold
LORD, You are more beautiful than diamonds
And nothing I desire compares with You
Child, you are . . .

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__ – no. 622 "Neither Death nor Life"

*__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

In Worship Today		
Pastor: Chris Culuris	Ushers:	Tech: Shanon Nowell
Musicians: Steve Kidder, Deacon Brenda Handel-Johnson	Communion Preparers: Kristy Larson	Bread Baker: Lynn Kidder
Assisting Minister: Larry Kiewel	Communion Servers:	

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), Barb Moss (friend of Deacon Brenda).

Acknowledgments

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FLC Refrigerator Page

Worship, Education and Service:

- **Fellowship** will be provided and served by the green committee.
- **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 who have been recently released were told NOT to return 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!

Events at FLC and around the area:

- **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:** The Worship and Arts and Tech Committees will meet today, July 19, following worship in the Conference Room.
- **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