May 3, 2026 ☩

Fifth 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 "Let All Things Now Living" *(Ash Grove)* *setting, Chris Kovarik*

Words of Welcome

***Gathering Hymn** - no. 731 "Earth and All Stars!"

***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 (*local waters may be named*). 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: Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever**. Amen.**

We Listen to God's Word

First Reading: Acts 7:55-60

55 Filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus
standing at the right hand of God. 56 "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of
Man standing at the right hand of God!" 57 But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all
rushed together against him. 58 Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him,
and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. 59 While they were
stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." 60 Then he knelt down and cried out
in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

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

Psalm - *the psalm will be spoken responsively by whole verse* Ps 31:1-5,15-16

1 In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame;
deliver me in your righteousness.
2 **Incline your ear to me;**
make haste to deliver me.
3 Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag and my stronghold;
for the sake of your name, lead me and guide me.
4 **Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me,**
for you are my tower of strength.
5 Into your hands I commend my spirit,
for you have redeemed me, O LORD, God of truth.
15 **My times are in your hand;**
rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.
16 Let your face shine upon your servant;
save me in your steadfast love."

Second Reading: 1 Peter 2:2-10

2 Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into
salvation 3 if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

4 Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's
sight, and 5 like living stones let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy
priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 6 For it stands in
scripture:

"See, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious,
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."

7 This honor, then, is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,

"The stone that the builders rejected
has become the very head of the corner,"

8 and

"A stone that makes them stumble
and a rock that makes them fall."

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order
that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous
light.

10 Once you were not a people,
but now you are God's people;
once you had not received mercy,
but now you have received mercy.

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

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

***Gospel:** John 14: 1-14

The Gospel of John, the 14th Chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] 1 "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in
me. 2 In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told
you that I go to prepare a place for you? 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come
again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. 4 And you know the
way to the place where I am going." 5 Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are
going. How can we know the way?" 6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life.
No one comes to the Father except through me. 7 If you know me, you will know my Father also.
From now on you do know him and have seen him."

8 Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." 9 Jesus said to him,

"Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? [10] Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. [11] Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, but if you do not, then believe because of the works themselves. [12] Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. [13] I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. [14] If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it."

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

Sermon – Pastor Chris Culuris

*__Hymn__ –no. 389 "Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing"

Affirmation of Baptism – page 234, *ELW*

*__Hymn__ - no. 732 "Borning Cry"

*__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 – "Make a Difference" Rachel Kurtz

*__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. 781 "Children of the Heavenly Father"
Hymn no. 838 "Beautiful Savior"

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. 543 "Go, My Children, with My Blessing"

*__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__ – "Earth and All Stars" setting, Michael Burkhardt

In Worship Today
Pastor: Chris Culuris
Organist: Brenda Handel-Johnson
Assisting Minister: Nancy Timm
Director of Choirs: Sarah Chambers

Ushers: John Nadeau, Steve Bolint
Communion Preparers: Keith & Carrie Stelter
Communion Servers: John and Shirb Sylvester

Tech: Brett Petersen
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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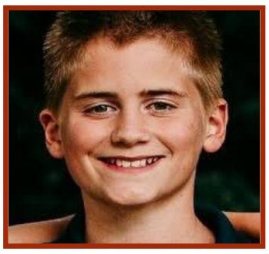
CONFIRMATION CLASS OF 2026

Dylan Greenig
Baptized: November 20, 2011
Parents:Nick & Amanda Greenig
Confirmation Mentor: Nancy Timm
Bible Verse: Matthew 6:34 “Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own”

Colton James Janovsky
Baptized: October 11, 2011
Parents: Dustin & Sarah Janovsky
Godparents/Sponsors: Jessen & Jennie Janovsky
Confirmation Mentor: Dave Ribar
Bible Verse: 1 Corinthians 14:16 “let all that you do be done in love”

Colton James Loken
Baptized: April 20, 2019
Parents: Aaron & Ann Loken
Godparents/Sponsors: Angie Quast and Chris Bordenave
Confirmation Mentor: Dave Ribar
Bible Verse: Romans 12:21 “Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”

Graham Timothy Menning
Baptized: April 12, 2011
Parents: Stefanie & Stephen Menning
Godparents: Pat and Kris Menning
Confirmation Mentor: Pat Menning and Andy Johnson
Memorized Verse: Joshua 1:9 “Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”



Kolby Wenner Nixon
Baptized: May 20, 2011
Parents: Dave & Jodi Nixon
Godparents/Sponsors: Dan Wenner and Christy Nixon
Confirmation Mentor: Ben Johnson
Bible Verse: Matthew 7:7 “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.”

Simon Seul-gi Ribar
Baptized: July 17, 2016
Parents: David & Rachel Ribar
Godparents/Sponsors: Jessen & Jennie Janovsky
Confirmation Mentor: Dave Ribar
Bible Verse: Exodus 15:2A “The Lord is my strength and my defense; he has become my salvation.”

FLC Refrigerator Page

Worship, Education and Service:

- Lifelong Learning and Mary Thompson will be serving **Fellowship** after worship.
- **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 through May 18.
- **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.
- **Bruce Gray's Funeral** will be held at Christ Chapel at 11am on Friday, May 15 with visitation two hours before.

Events at FLC and around the area:

- Today we celebrate with six young men as they **affirm their baptismal faith**: Dylan Greenig, Colton Janovsky, Colton Loken, Graham Menning, Kolby Nixon and Simon Ribar. Congratulations and God bless you all!
- **Resurrection Cemetery Cleanup** – May 1 from 10am – noon. Please bring hand trimmers, rakes and shovels. Donuts will be provided and a trip to Diamon Dust will be made for lunch. Questions – please contact Mike Stewart, the Cemetery Committee Chairperson.
- **Please wear your yellow "God's Work, Our Hands" Sunday t-shirts to worship on May 17.** We will be taking a picture of our congregation and want your participation!
- **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
- **Adult BWCA** trip is slated for June 28th- July 2 if interested, call Mark Szybnski at 507-380-9180 or email him at markszybnski@gmail.com
- **Saint Peter 2050 Comprehensive Plan – Community Survey**
  The City of Saint Peter has begun work on its 2050 Comprehensive Plan, which will guide community growth, development, and investment over the next 20 years. Community input is an important part of the process.
  Residents are invited to share their ideas by completing a short survey at:
  https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SP2050COMPPLAN
  Paper copies are also available at City Hall (227 S Front St).