

20th Sunday after Pentecost
October 11, 2026



Matthew 22:14

First Lutheran Church
116 Inner Drive
Le Sueur, MN 56058
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Rev. Samuel Mailleue

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UNITED by Christ, God calls us to LOVE one another
As we RECEIVE, DISCOVER and PROCLAIM God's Word.

In Isaiah we are given a vision of the great feast to come, when God will wipe away death forever. In Jesus' parable about a great banquet, those invited do not come, so the invitation is extended to others. In our liturgy God spreads a table before us. Even amid anxiety and hardship we rejoice in the peace of God which surpasses all understanding. With great joy we feast at the table of the Lord, and we go forth to share the wonderful invitation with others hungering and thirsting for the abundant life of God.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

TEMPLE TALK – Gene Dwyer

OPENING REFLECTION

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who pours love into our hearts
and healing upon the earth.

Amen.

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith,
let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,

**we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness
in the world and in our own hearts.**

Creation groans from overuse.

**Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships.
Indifference keeps us from seeking justice.
Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love
to others.
Turn our hearts back to you.
Restore our world and reconcile us to one another.
Renew us to live as your holy people,
following the way of Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

Hear this good news:
We have peace with God through † Jesus Christ,
in whom there is no condemnation,
but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life.
Receive freely this healing gift of grace.
Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OPENING HYMN

***Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!* ELW #873
(Vs. 1, 2 & 3)
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GREETING

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- *spoken*

ELW page 138

CANTICLE

***How Great Thou Art* ELW #856
(Chorus Only)
One License #198390**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray

**Lord of the feast, you have prepared a table before all peoples and poured out your life with abundance. Call us again to your banquet. Strengthen us by what is honorable, just, and pure, and transform us into a people of righteousness and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

CHOIR ANTHEM

Behold the Lamb of God
CCLI #5003372

FAITH STATEMENTS

**Vance Vanden Einde
Reece St. Pierre**

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.

FIRST READING— Isaiah 25:1-9

After a hymn of praise acknowledging God as a shelter for the poor, the prophet portrays a wonderful victory banquet at which death—which in ancient Canaan was depicted as a monster swallowing up everyone—will be swallowed up forever. The prophet urges celebration of this victory of salvation.

- ¹ O LORD, you are my God;
I will exalt you; I will praise your name,
for you have done wonderful things,
plans formed of old, faithful and sure.
- ² For you have made the city a heap,
the fortified city a ruin;
the palace of foreigners is a city no more;
it will never be rebuilt.

³ Therefore strong peoples will glorify you;
cities of ruthless nations will fear you.

⁴ For you have been a refuge to the poor,
a refuge to the needy in their distress,
a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat.

When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm,

⁵ the noise of foreigners like heat in a dry place,
you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds;
the song of the ruthless was stilled.

⁶ On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.

⁷ And he will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the covering that is spread over all nations;

⁸ he will swallow up death forever.

Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,
for the LORD has spoken.

⁹ It will be said on that day,
“See, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.
This is the LORD for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.”

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God!

PSALM— Psalm 23 KJV (Unison)

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

² He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

³ He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

⁴ Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

⁵ Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

SECOND READING— Philippians 4:1-9

Though writing from prison and facing an uncertain future, Paul calls on the Philippians to rejoice and give thanks to God no matter what the circumstance. God's peace is with us and binds together our hearts and minds in Jesus Christ, especially when things around us do not seem peaceful.

¹ My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

² I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. ³ Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my coworkers, whose names are in the book of life.

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸ Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹ As for the things that you have learned and received and heard and noticed in me, do them, and the God of peace will be with you.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION—Alleluia

ELW page #142

The Holy Gospel according to the twenty-second chapter of Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL— Matthew 22:1-14

Jesus tells a parable indicating that the blessings of God's kingdom are available to all, but the invitation is not to be taken lightly.

¹ Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: ² “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. ³ He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. ⁴ Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’ ⁵ But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶ while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. ⁷ The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. ⁸ Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹ Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’ ¹⁰ Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

¹¹ “But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, ¹² and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless. ¹³ Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ ¹⁴ For many are called, but few are chosen.”

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, O Christ

MESSAGE

Rev. Sam Mailleue

HYMN OF THE DAY

O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts **ELW #658**

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APOSTLES' CREED

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

THE PRAYERS

Seeking the Spirit of God who makes all things new, we pray for the church and the world.

A brief silence.

Holy God, we remember your promise of unity on your holy mountain.
Empower the World Council of Churches and all those working across religious difference, that the world may know your undivided love.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We remember your promise of green pastures and quiet waters. Preserve all places of natural beauty and restore our relationship with the land.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We remember your promise to not abandon us amid storm and disaster.
Renew all communities facing disasters and give your courage to those leading relief efforts.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We remember your promise to wipe away every tear. Heal and console all who are sick or suffering especially those on our prayer list and in our hearts.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We remember your promise of a banquet open to all people. Challenge this congregation to open wide our doors and welcome everyone to the table.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We remember your promise to swallow up death forever. We give thanks for those who have gone before us.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Trusting in your boundless grace, O God, we lift up these spoken prayers and those in our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

OFFERING

Gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS AND TITHES

OFFERTORY HYMN

Create in Me a Clean Heart **ELW #188**
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OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of creation,
you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly.
All blessings are from you;
make us generous with what we have.
Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts
in service to you and in love to our neighbors,
today and always.
Amen.

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.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

The God of love
draw you into full accord and one mind,
in the body of Christ Jesus.

Amen.

The God of hope
grant you strength and joy in all circumstances
through the interceding of the Spirit.

Amen.

The God of grace
✠ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

***Sent Forth by God's Blessing* ELW #547**

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DISMISSAL

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Welcome to First Lutheran Church

*Whether you are looking for a place of worship
or are just passing through, we hope our service has blessed you
on your journey as your presence has been a blessing to us.*



Acknowledgements:

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Shift Worship—Membership

Expires 12/25/2026

Sharefaith—Membership

Expires 6/2027

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

October Ministry Focus: Prayer Shawls and Indigenous People

Prayer Shawl Ministry Purpose: The Prayer Shawl Ministry wishes to combine the wonderful fellowship found within FLC and its community with our talents of knitting or crocheting, to form a prayerful ministry that reaches out to those in need of comfort, solace and prayer.

Qualifications: Ability to do simple knitting and/or crocheting patterns. The team is willing to give lessons to anyone that may be interested in helping knit or crochet. Finished prayer shawls are given a blessing from Pastor before distribution. You do not have to knit or crochet to be part of this ministry. You can be a part by delivering prayer shawls.

The Prayer Shawl Team is in need of more people to join our ministry and monetary donations for the purchase of yarn to complete the prayer shawls. Contact Brenda Liebhard-Johnson at 507-665-2477 or 612-756-1814 for more information.

Indigenous People

Exploring Religious Questions: Fall 2026

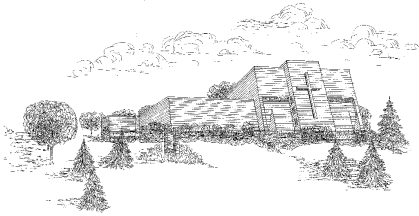
As we enter October, **FLC's Social Ministry Committee is focusing on the ELCA's work of Indigenous recognition, relationship, and reconciliation.** One way we can deepen our understanding is through Gustavus Adolphus College's Fall 2026 **Exploring Religious Questions Series, Beyond Land**

Acknowledgments: Toward Relationship, Healing, and Justice. This four-part series invites participants to learn more about Indigenous history, relationships, and the work of moving beyond land acknowledgments toward healing and justice.

The series is **open to the public** and meets on **Monday evenings from 7:00–9:00 p.m.** at Gustavus Adolphus College. Sessions include: **October 12 – “Gustavus on Dakota Lands”**; **October 19 – “The Blanket Exercise: Walking through over 500 Years of Broken Treaties and Settler/Indigenous Relations”**; **October 26 – “Building Relationships: Living into the Repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery”**; and **November 2 – “Land Acknowledgment and Beyond: Lessons from Anglican and Episcopal Initiatives in North America.”**

Registration is required, and registration for the public is \$35. FLC’s **Social Ministry Committee will sponsor up to six congregation members** to attend this series. If you are interested in attending, please let Becky Pollack or Megan Schwarz know. We hope this opportunity will encourage us to listen, learn, and consider how we can continue growing in understanding and building relationships with Indigenous communities.

Financial Update		
Week of	Amount Received	Amount Needed
10-4-2026	\$5,025	\$4,523
YTD	\$172,046	\$185,440



Weekly Schedule

Sunday, October 11	9:00a 10:15a	Worship First Choir Rehearsal
Wednesday, October 14	9:00a	Staff Meeting
Friday, October 16		Newsletter Deadline
Sunday, October 18	9:00a	Worship w/Holy Communion Stewardship Sunday

Worship Assistants

October 11, 2026

Organist/Pianist: Virginia Miller
First Choir Director: Jennifer Weick
Acolytes: Emmalee Flores
Reader: Lynnea Libra
Usher: John Miller
Greeters:
Council Member: Callie Greisen
Fellowship:
Projection: Tech Team
Audio: Tech Team
Videographer: Becky Pollack
Offering Counters: Dave Johnson
Joanne Graff
Altar Guild: Randy & Connie Baum

October 18, 2026

Organist/Pianist: Virginia Miller
First Choir Director: Jennifer Weick
Acolytes: Malcolm Mailleue
Reader: Joan May
Usher: Vic Pengilly
Greeters: LeRoy & Joan May
Communion Asst: LeRoy & Joan May
Council Member: Miles Heille
Fellowship:
Projection: Tech Team
Audio: Tech Team
Videographer: Becky Pollack
Offering Counters: John Miller
Joan May
Altar Guild: Randy & Connie Baum