25th Sunday after Pentecost
November 15, 2026



The Parable of the Talents

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

Our readings during November speak of the end times. Zephaniah proclaims that the coming day of the LORD will be filled with wrath and distress. Paul says it will come like a thief in the night and urges us to be awake and sober. Jesus tells the parable of the talents, calling us to use our gifts, while we still have time, for the greater and common good. In a world filled with violence and despair, we gather around signs of hope—word, water, bread, and wine—eager to welcome the good news of Christ's coming among us.

GATHERING

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

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING REFLECTION

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
our dwelling place for all generations,
whose compassion never slumbers.
Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God
and of one another.
Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,
we confess that we have trusted in our preparation
instead of your invitation.
We prioritize our piety over care for your beloved.

**We trust the voice of our shame and fear,
which keeps us from entering fully
into relationship with you and others.
We are not awake to the coming of your reign.
Rouse us and rescue us,
that we may enter into your joy.
Amen.**

Inherit the riches of God's grace.
☩ Jesus, the good shepherd, feeds you with his mercy.
You are forgiven.
Blessed are you.
Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OPENING HYMN ***Christ, Be Our Light*** **ELW #715 (Vs. 1, 2 & 5)**
One License #80229

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 ***Holy God, We Praise Your Name*** **ELW #414 (Vs. 1)**

PRAYER OF THE DAY
Let us pray
**Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

WORD

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

FIRST READING— Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

Zephaniah (like the prophet Amos in last week's first reading) presents the day of the LORD as one of judgment and wrath. Descriptions of the last day in the New Testament include details taken from Old Testament accounts of the day of the LORD.

7 Be silent before the Lord GOD,
for the day of the LORD is at hand!
The LORD has prepared a sacrifice;
he has consecrated his guests.

12 At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,
and I will punish the people
who settle like dregs in wine,
those who say in their hearts,
"The LORD will not do good,
nor will he do harm."
13 Their wealth shall be plundered
and their houses laid waste.
Though they build houses,
they shall not inhabit them;
though they plant vineyards,
they shall not drink wine from them.

14 The great day of the LORD is near,
near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter;
the warrior cries aloud there.
15 That day will be a day of wrath,
a day of distress and anguish,
a day of ruin and devastation,

a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness,
16 a day of trumpet blast and battle cry
against the fortified cities
and against the lofty battlements.

17 I will bring such distress upon people
that they shall walk like the blind;
because they have sinned against the LORD,
their blood shall be poured out like dust
and their flesh like dung.
18 Neither their silver nor their gold
will be able to save them
on the day of the LORD's wrath;
in the fire of his passion
the whole earth shall be consumed,
for a full, a terrible end
he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

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

PSALM— Psalm 90:1-8 [9-11] 12
1 Lord, you have been our refuge
from one generation to another.
2 **Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born,**
from age to age you are God.
3 You turn us back to the dust and say,
"Turn back, O children of earth."
4 **For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past**
and like a watch in the night;
5 you sweep them away like a dream,
they fade away suddenly like the grass:
6 **in the morning it is green and flourishes;**
in the evening it is dried up and withered.
7 For we are consumed by your anger;
we are afraid because of your wrath.

8 **Our iniquities you have set before you,**
and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.
[9 When you are angry, all our days are gone;
we bring our years to an end like a sigh.
10 **The span of our life is seventy years, perhaps in strength even eighty;**
yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow, for they pass away quickly and we are gone.
11 Who regards the power of your wrath?
Who rightly fears your indignation?]
12 **So teach us to number our days**
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

SECOND READING—1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Though we do not know and cannot calculate the day of Christ's return, we live faithfully in the here and now as we anticipate the day when we will be given eternal salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. 2 For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. 3 When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! 4 But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; 5 for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. 6 So, then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober, 7 for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. 8 But since we belong to the day, let us be sober and put on the breastplate of faith and love and for a helmet the hope of salvation. 9 For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. 11 Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION—*Alleluia* **ELW page 142**

The Holy Gospel according to the twenty-fifth chapter of Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL— Matthew 25:14-30
Jesus tells a parable about his second coming, indicating that it is not sufficient merely to maintain things as they are. Those who await his return should make good use of the gifts that God has provided them.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] 14 "For it is as if a man, going on a journey,
summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; 15 to one he gave five
talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he
went away. At once 16 the one who had received the five talents went off and
traded with them and made five more talents. 17 In the same way, the one who
had the two talents made two more talents. 18 But the one who had received
the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's
money. 19 After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled
accounts with them. 20 Then the one who had received the five talents came
forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five
talents; see, I have made five more talents.' 21 His master said to him, 'Well
done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I
will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' 22 And
the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed
over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' 23 His master said to
him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a
few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your
master.' 24 Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward,
saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not
sow and gathering where you did not scatter, 25 so I was afraid, and I went and
hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' 26 But his master
replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did
not sow and gather where I did not scatter? 27 Then you ought to have invested
my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was
my own with interest. 28 So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with
the ten talents. 29 For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will
have an abundance, but from those who have nothing, even what they have

will be taken away. 30 As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' "

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, O Christ

MESSAGE **Rev. Sam Mailleue**

HYMN OF THE DAY ***Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us*** **ELW #707 (Vs. 1 & 2)**
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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
United with the great cloud of witnesses, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.
A brief silence.

You build up the church as a community of faithful witnesses throughout the generations. Enliven the worship, outreach, and service work of our congregations and ministries with the hope of your good news.
God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

As the nights grow longer in the northern hemisphere, make us mindful of the earth's need for rest. Provide for fallow fields and hibernating animals; show us how to curb human impact on vulnerable lands and species.
God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Rescue all nations and peoples from violence, displacement, or famine. Disrupt complacency among national and local leaders. Recommit our communities to transforming the systems that divide and oppress into those that empower and unite.
God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In your embrace, we find refuge from all trials and troubles. Care for families who are separated or estranged, accompany all undergoing medical procedures or mental health treatment, and reassure any who are ill or despairing especially those on our prayer list and in our hearts.
God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bless all who serve in congregational leadership: council members, volunteer coordinators, and teams members. Encourage healthy stewardship of time, talents, and resources for the mission of the gospel.
God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

The faithful of every age trust in the hope of your saving grace. In thanksgiving for the ways our ancestors have journeyed before us, we remember all who have entered eternal life in you.
God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your steadfast love, faithful God, we entrust all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus, your beloved.
Amen.

OFFERING

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

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS AND TITHES

OFFERTORY HYMN ***Praise and Thanksgiving*** **ELW #689 (Vs. 1)**

One License #13262

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Eternal God,
our time, talents, and treasures are gifts from you.
Receive what we offer,
and all that you entrust to us,
until hungry no more, all the world is fed,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING **ELW page 144**

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION ***Holy, holy, holy*** **ELW page 144**

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 COMMUNON
In bread and cup the reign of Christ is breaking in.
Come, receive what Christ has prepared.

Lamb of God **ELW page 146**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION
Holy God,
we have received your never-ending mercy in this meal.
You continuously seek the lost,
bind the injured,
and feed your people abundantly.
Now send us out,
awake to your presence,
now and forever.
Amen.

SENDING

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

BLESSING

The holy Trinity,
Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you with wisdom to welcome the reign of God,
today and always.
Amen.

CLOSING HYMN ***O God, Our Help in Ages Past*** **ELW #632**
(Vs. 1, 2 & 4)
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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Encourage one another.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

<u>Welcome to First Lutheran Church</u>

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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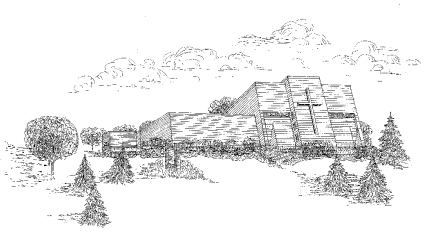
WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

November Ministry Focus: Adopt-A-Family

As we enter the holiday season, our congregation again has an opportunity to put our faith into action through Le Sueur County's Adopt-a-Family program. Through this program we will provide gifts of clothing for local families, helping parents meet their children's needs while bringing warmth, dignity, and joy during the Christmas season. Through this ministry, we live out Jesus' call to love our neighbors and care for those who may be experiencing difficult times.

Adopt-A-Family gift tags are on the tree in the gathering space with more available online through Sign-Up Genius. Each tag has a clothing item with the size, gender, and child's age. **The final day to drop off gifts under the tree in the gathering space will be Wednesday, December 2nd. Gift should be unwrapped and labeled with the tag code!** The online link is shared in the Sunday morning email and on our website landing page. If assistance is needed signing up online, reach out to Becky.

Financial Update		
Week of	Amount Received	Amount Needed
11-8-2026	$1,905	$4,523
YTD	$190,760	$208,054



Weekly Schedule

Sunday, November 15	**9:00a**	**Worship w/Holy Communion**
Tuesday, November 17	10:00a	Coffee/Mary Unit
	10:15a	Bible Study/Mary Unit
Wednesday, November 18	9:00a	Staff Meeting
	6:00p	Meal @ UMC
	6:30p	RISE / RISE UP
	6:00p	Finance Team Meeting
Sunday, November 22	**9:00a**	**Worship**

Worship Assistants

November 15, 2026

Organist/Pianist:	Virginia Miller
First Choir Director:	Jennifer Weick
Acolytes:	Emmalee Flores
Reader:	Rachel Wagner
Usher:	John Miller
Greeters:	Stefanie Eischens
Communion Asst:	Bonnie Keech
	Sue Michaelis
Council Member:	Andrew Montag
Fellowship:	
Projection:	Tech Team
Audio:	Tech Team
Videographer:	Becky Pollack
Offering Counters:	Bob Bartle
	John Miller
Altar Guild:	Sue Michaelis
	Donnis Wicks

November 22, 2026

Organist/Pianist:	Virginia Miller
First Choir Director:	Jennifer Weick
Acolytes:	Liam Haaland
Reader:	Edrie Barton
Usher:	LeRoy May
Greeters:	Heather Haaland
	Barb Majusiak
Council Member:	Sara Carrigan
Fellowship:	
Projection:	Tech Team
Audio:	Tech Team
Videographer:	Becky Pollack
Offering Counters:	Dave Johnson
	Bob Patrias
Altar Guild:	Sue Michaelis
	Donnis Wicks