

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
February 1, 2026



*Blessed are those
who mourn, for they
will be comforted.*

Matthew 5:4

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

Who are the blessed ones of God? For Micah, they are those who do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. For Paul, they are the ones who find wisdom in the weakness of the cross. For Jesus, they are the poor, the meek, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, those who mourn, and those who hunger for righteousness. In baptism we find our blessed identity and calling in this countercultural way of living and serving.

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,
the Creator of heaven and earth,
the Word who spoke life into being,
the Wind stirring the waters.

Amen.

Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.
Silence is kept for reflection.

Mighty God, lover of justice,
**you call us to life in community,
but we have served our own interests
at the expense of our neighbors.
We have sown deceit where honesty was needed.
We say the right words,
but our hearts are far from you.
Turn us to seek your face.
Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ,**

**that we may do justice, love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God.
Amen.**

The former things have passed away,
and new things God now declares:
Like a spring of water that never fails,
God covers you in the righteousness of Christ,
and forgives your sin in ✝ Jesus' name.
May the Spirit give you strength to live for others,
and bless you with the gift of peace.
Amen.

OPENING HYMN

As We Gather at Your Table ELW #522
(Vs. 1 & 2)

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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

ELW page 138

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

You Servants of God ELW #825
(Vs. 4)

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray
Holy God, you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

WORD

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

FIRST READING—Micah 6:1-8

With the mountains and the foundations of the earth as the jury, God brings a lawsuit against Israel. God has “wearied” Israel with a long history of saving acts. God does not want or expect lavish sacrifices to attempt to earn divine favor. Rather God empowers the people to do justice, to love loyalty to God, and to walk shrewdly in God’s service.

¹ Hear what the LORD says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.

² Hear, you mountains, the case of the LORD,
and you enduring foundations of the earth,
for the LORD has a case against his people,
and he will contend with Israel.

³ “O my people, what have I done to you?
In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

⁴ For I brought you up from the land of Egypt
and redeemed you from the house of slavery,
and I sent before you Moses,
Aaron, and Miriam.

⁵ O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,
that you may know the saving acts of the LORD.”

⁶ “With what shall I come before the LORD
and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?

⁷ Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?

Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"

⁸ He has told you, O mortal, what is good,
and what does the LORD require of you
but to do justice and to love kindness
and to walk humbly with your God?

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God!

PSALM—Psalm 15

¹ LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle?
Who may abide upon your holy hill?

² **Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right,
who speak the truth from their heart;**

³ they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends;
they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.

⁴ **In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who fear
the LORD.**

They have sworn upon their health and do not take back their word.

⁵ They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes against the innocent.

Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.

SECOND READING—1 Corinthians 1:18-31

According to the world's standards of power and might, the message of the cross seems stupid and offensive. Yet this word reveals the paradoxical way God has chosen to work power and salvation through weakness, rejection, and suffering. Hence the message of the cross becomes true wisdom and power for believers.

¹⁸ The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written,

"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

²⁰ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. ²² For Jews ask for signs

and Greeks desire wisdom,²³ but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles,²⁴ but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.²⁵ For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

²⁶ Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth.²⁷ But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong;²⁸ God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to abolish things that are,²⁹ so that no one might boast in the presence of God.³⁰ In contrast, God is why you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption,³¹ in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION—*Alleluia*

ELW page #142

The Holy Gospel according to the fifth chapter of Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL—Matthew 5:1-12

Jesus opens the Sermon on the Mount by naming those who are blessed in the reign of God.

¹ When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ² And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

³ "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵ "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶ "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷ "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸ "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹ "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰ "Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is

great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, O Christ

MESSAGE

Rev. Sam Mailleue

HYMN OF THE DAY

Build a Longer Table
(Vs. 1, 2, 3)
One License #11922

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

As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home.
A brief silence.

God our wisdom, renew the church in the power of the Spirit, that it may do justice, love kindness, live humbly, and boldly proclaim Christ crucified. We pray for social justice and humanitarian aid ministries especially Lutheran Social Services.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God our source, we honor you by caring wisely for your creation. We pray for the health of old growth forests, ice caps, and ocean currents. Preserve the diversity of life on earth.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God our righteousness, raise up visionary leaders who serve with integrity and respect human rights. Increase freedom in every nation. Protect educators, journalists, artists, and religious activists who are reviled for speaking truth.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God our advocate, you give hope to all who suffer because of persecution, poverty, or war. Reunite separated families and bring orphaned children to safety. Comfort any who grieve or suffer in any way especially those in our hearts and on our prayer list.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God our blessing, we pray for the children and youth of this congregation, and for parents, grandparents, mentors, teachers, and youth ministers who model love for their neighbor and care for others.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God our joy, we give thanks for the lives of those before us who journeyed humbly with you.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior.

Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

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 #186

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OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of majesty,
no eye has seen, no ear has heard
what you have prepared for those who love you,
yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy.
Use what we have gathered
to feed us with the reign of God come near,
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 COMMUNION

Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!
Come to the table; taste and see.

Lamb of God ELW page 146

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Radiant God,
we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.
In the sacrament of his body and blood
you have drawn us to your heart.
Send us from this table with delight,
that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love,
and bear witness to all we have seen and heard,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

SENDING

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

BLESSING

May the triune God,
who has put a new song in your mouth
and tuned your heart for praise

✝ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

***The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve* ELW #551**

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

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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Expires 6/2026

Church ArtPro—Account #74057560

Expires 12/15/2027

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

February Ministry Focus: Scholarships

Did you know that First Lutheran offers **multiple scholarships** generously established through donations from the church congregation as well as individual church families?

These gifts of financial support are for members who plan to attend a 2 or 4-year college or university, a vocational-technical trade school, or seminary studies and have not received any FLC scholarship previously.

Since 2009, we are excited that 62 students have been awarded FLC Scholarships!

First Lutheran Church Scholarships are established through donations from the congregation. The number and amount of individual scholarships will be determined by the amount of funds available each year.

The Donna Johnson Memorial Scholarship was created by the Johnson family in memory of their mom/grandmother. Donna sought to make a difference in the lives of others through volunteering, leadership, and kind acts toward others. Scholarships of at least \$5,000 will be awarded to one or two applicants each year.

The Marcie Allen Memorial Scholarship was created by the Allen family in memory of their mom/grandmother. Marcie was very supportive of all youth and their activities as well as volunteering in the church and community. Scholarships of at least \$5,000 will be awarded to one or more applicants each year.

You may donate:

- online through the church website (Click Contributions and enter FLC Scholarships)
- mail to the church
- drop off donations in the church mailbox at the front entrance



Senior Citizen Dinner—The dinner is prepared by the Le Sueur Knights of Columbus Council 2895 and coordinated by Le Sueur-Henderson Community Education.

This FREE event is funded in part by the Le Sueur Area United Fund. The dinner is open to senior citizens age 62 and older who live in the Le Sueur-Henderson school district and is limited to the first 220 people.

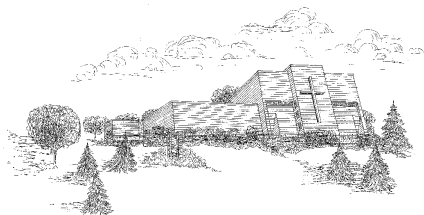
Sunday, February 15, doors open at 11:00am and lunch is served at 12 (noon). St. Anne's School. Please register by calling 507-665-4620. Deadline is February 13.

Join us for a **Kindness Gathering & Potluck** on **Sunday, February 22**, following the worship service! We'll spend the time enjoying games, cards, and good company while sharing a meal together.

Please bring a soup and breads, crackers, or a dessert to share, along with a favorite board game or deck of cards to play with others. We'll also be frosting cookies to share with residents at our local assisted living communities—spreading a little sweetness and joy beyond our walls.

All are welcome, and we hope you'll come be part of this meaningful and fun time together. Thank you!  

Financial Update		
Week of	Amount Received	Amount Needed
1-25-2026	\$825	\$4,523
YTD	\$17,128	\$22,615



Weekly Schedule

Sunday, February 1	9:00a 10:15a	Worship w/Holy Communion Bible Study w/Pr. Sam
Wednesday, February 4	9:00a 6:00p 6:30p 7:00-7:30p 7:00-8p 6:00-8p	Staff Meeting Meal @ UMC Worship RISE RISE UP FLY
Sunday, February 8	9:00a 10:15a	Worship First Choir Rehearsal

Worship Assistants

February 1, 2026

Organist/Pianist:	Virginia Miller
First Choir Director:	Jennifer Weick
Acolytes:	Garret Handy
Reader:	Liz Osborne
Usher:	Chuck Frauendienst
Greeters:	John Miller
Communion Asst:	Bonnie Keech
	Joan May
Council Member:	Miles Heille
Fellowship:	Haemig Family
Projection:	Tech Team
Audio:	Tech Team
Videographer:	Becky Pollack
Offering Counters:	John Miller
	Joan May
Altar Guild:	Marie Walker

February 8, 2026

Organist/Pianist:	Virginia Miller
First Choir Director:	Jennifer Weick
Acolytes:	Lyndon Rassmussen
Reader:	Allison Montag
Usher:	Vic Pengilly
Greeters:	Stefanie Eischens
Council Member:	Mike Johnson
Fellowship:	
Projection:	Tech Team
Audio:	Tech Team
Videographer:	Becky Pollack
Offering Counters:	Joanne Graff
	Dave Johnson
Altar Guild:	Marie Walker