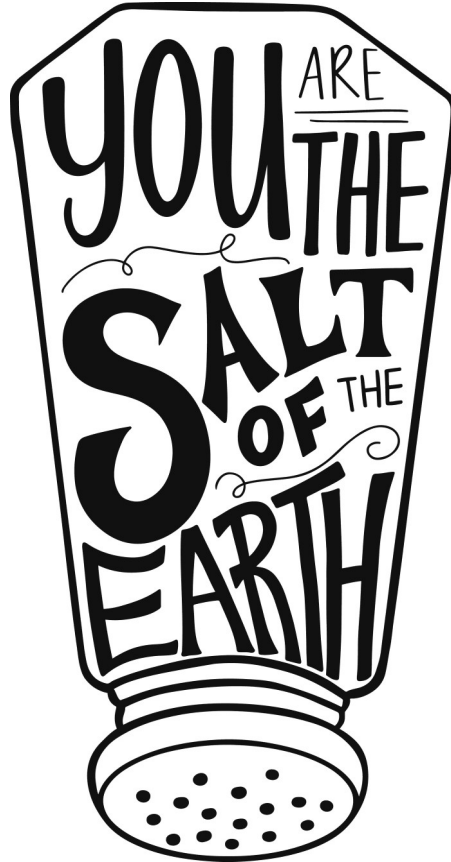


Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
February 8, 2026



First Lutheran Church
116 Inner Drive
Le Sueur, MN 56058
507-665-2615

Rev. Samuel Mailleue
office@firstlutheranlesueur.org
www.firstlutheranlesueur.org

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

Light shines in the darkness for the upright, the psalmist sings. Isaiah declares that when we loose the bonds of injustice and share our bread with the hungry, the light breaks forth like the dawn. In another passage from the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus, the light of the world, calls his followers to let the light of their good works shine before others. Through baptism we are sent into the world to shine with the light of Christ.

GATHERING

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

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

TEMPLE TALK—Scholarships

Melissa Schwartz

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

Gather Us In ELW #532
(Vs. 1 & 4)

One License #00031

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

Give to Our God Immortal Praise ELW #848
(Vs. 2)

Public Domain

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray
**Lord God, with endless mercy you receive the prayers of all who call upon you. By your Spirit show us the things we ought to do, and give us the grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.**

CHOIR ANTHEM

The Lord is My Light

Arr. John Carter

One License #97715 & 93386

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

WORD

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

FIRST READING—Isaiah 58:1-9a [9b-12]

Shortly after the return of Israel from exile in Babylon, the people were troubled by the ineffectiveness of their fasts. God reminds them that outward observance is no substitute for genuine fasting that results in acts of justice, such as feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, and clothing the naked.

¹ Shout out; do not hold back!

Lift up your voice like a trumpet!

Announce to my people their rebellion,
to the house of Jacob their sins.

² Yet day after day they seek me
and delight to know my ways,

as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;
they ask of me righteous judgments;
they want God on their side.

³ “Why do we fast, but you do not see?

Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?”

Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day
and oppress all your workers.

⁴ You fast only to quarrel and to fight
and to strike with a wicked fist.

Such fasting as you do today
will not make your voice heard on high.

⁵ Is such the fast that I choose,
a day to humble oneself?

Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?

Will you call this a fast,
a day acceptable to the LORD?

⁶ Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the straps of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?

⁷ Is it not to share your bread with the hungry
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

⁸ Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator shall go before you;
the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

^{9a} Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, "Here I am."

[^{9b} If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,

¹⁰ if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday.

¹¹ The LORD will guide you continually
and satisfy your needs in parched places
and make your bones strong,
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water
whose waters never fail.

¹² Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.]

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God!

PSALM—Psalm 112:1-9 [10]

- ¹ Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the LORD
and have great delight in God's commandments!
- ² **Their descendants will be mighty in the land;
the generation of the upright will be blessed.**
- ³ Wealth and riches will be in their house,
and their righteousness will last forever.
- ⁴ **Light shines in the darkness for the upright;
the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.**
- ⁵ It is good for them to be generous in lending
and to manage their affairs with justice.
- ⁶ **For they will never be shaken;
the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.**
- ⁷ They will not be afraid of any evil rumors;
their heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD.
- ⁸ **Their heart is established and will not shrink,
until they see their desire upon their enemies.**
- ⁹ They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands fast forever;
they will hold up their head with honor.
- ¹⁰ **The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth and pine
away;
the desires of the wicked will perish.**

SECOND READING—1 Corinthians 2:1-12 [13-16]

Though people such as the Corinthians are enamored with human philosophy and wisdom, Paul continuously presents God's hidden wisdom which is Jesus Christ crucified. True spiritual maturity involves judging ourselves and others in light of God's revelation in the cross.

¹ When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the testimony of God to you with superior speech or wisdom. ² For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. ³ And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. ⁴ My speech and my proclamation were made not with persuasive words of wisdom but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵ so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

⁶ Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are being destroyed. ⁷ But we speak God's wisdom, a hidden mystery, which God decreed before the ages for our glory ⁸ and

which none of the rulers of this age understood, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.⁹ But, as it is written,

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,
nor the human heart conceived,
what God has prepared for those who love him”—

¹⁰ God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹ For what human knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God’s except the Spirit of God. ¹² Now we have received not the spirit of the world but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. [¹³ And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual.

¹⁴ Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God’s Spirit, for they are foolishness to them, and they are unable to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. ¹⁵ Those who are spiritual discern all things, and they are themselves subject to no one else’s scrutiny.

¹⁶ “For who has known the mind of the Lord
so as to instruct him?”
But we have the mind of Christ.]

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 5:13-20

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus encourages his followers to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, doing good works and keeping God’s commandments.

[Jesus said:] ¹³ “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵ People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

¹⁷ “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. ¹⁸ For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹ Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰ For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, O Christ

MESSAGE

Rev. Sam Mailleue

HYMN OF THE DAY

This Little Light of Mine ELW #677

One License #01998 & Public Domain

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.

Your church does ministry in many and various ways. Keep the baptized true to the mind of Christ, that our works and witness bring hope to a troubled world.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Your marvelous creation cries out to you. Restore polluted air, soil, and water sources to wholeness. Guard honeybees, elephants, great whales and songbirds from harm, and renew the face of the earth.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Your people in every nation suffer injustice, poverty, and the threat of violence. Guide those in authority to govern with compassion, and bring peace to war zones, especially Ukraine, Gaza and Venezuela. We pray for our enemies.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Your blessings are poured out for all in need. Help and heal any who experience trauma, discrimination, disease, hunger, abuse, or persecution. Comfort those who are sick or grieving especially those on our prayer list and in our hearts.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Your wisdom guides this congregation and its ministries. Sustain our ordained leaders, staff, lay leaders, and volunteers. Form us to be salt and light for the neighbors we serve, following the example of Christ.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Your saints rejoice at your heavenly banquet. We give thanks for their lives of faith, trusting that we also will be embraced by your eternal love.

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

Let Justice Flow like Streams ELW #717

(Vs. 1)

CCLI #591745

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 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

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

***Go, Make Disciples* ELW #540**

CCLI #659058

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.*



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Shift Worship—Membership

Expires 12/25/2026

Sharefaith—Membership

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.

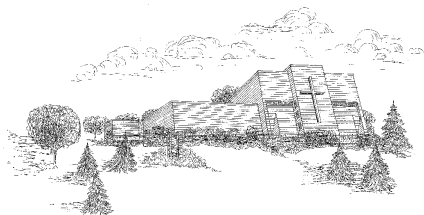
Join us for a **Kindness Gathering & Potluck on Sunday, February 22**, following the worship service! We’ll spend the time enjoying games, cards, and good company while sharing a meal together.

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! ❤️ 🍪

Altar Flower today are in memory of Debra Pollack from Nick & Becky Pollack family.

Financial Update		
Week of	Amount Received	Amount Needed
2-1-2026	\$8,133	\$4,523
YTD	\$25,261	\$27,138



Weekly Schedule

Sunday, February 8	9:00a 10:15a	Worship First Choir Rehearsal
Monday, February 9	10:00a	Nursing Home Service
Wednesday, February 11	9:00a 6:00p 6:30-7:30p 6:30-8p 6:30-8p	Staff Meeting Meal @ UMC RISE RISE UP FLY
Sunday, February 15	9:00a 10:00a	Worship with Holy Communion Bible Study with Pr. Sam

Worship Assistants

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

February 15, 2026

Organist/Pianist:	Virginia Miller
First Choir Director:	Jennifer Weick
Acolytes:	Ezra Carlen
Reader:	Marci Greisen
Usher:	Vic Pengilly
Greeters:	Liz Osborne
Communion Asst:	
Council Member:	Callie Greisen
Fellowship:	
Projection:	Tech Team
Audio:	Tech Team
Videographer:	Becky Pollack
Offering Counters:	Bob Patrias John Miller
Altar Guild:	Marie Walker