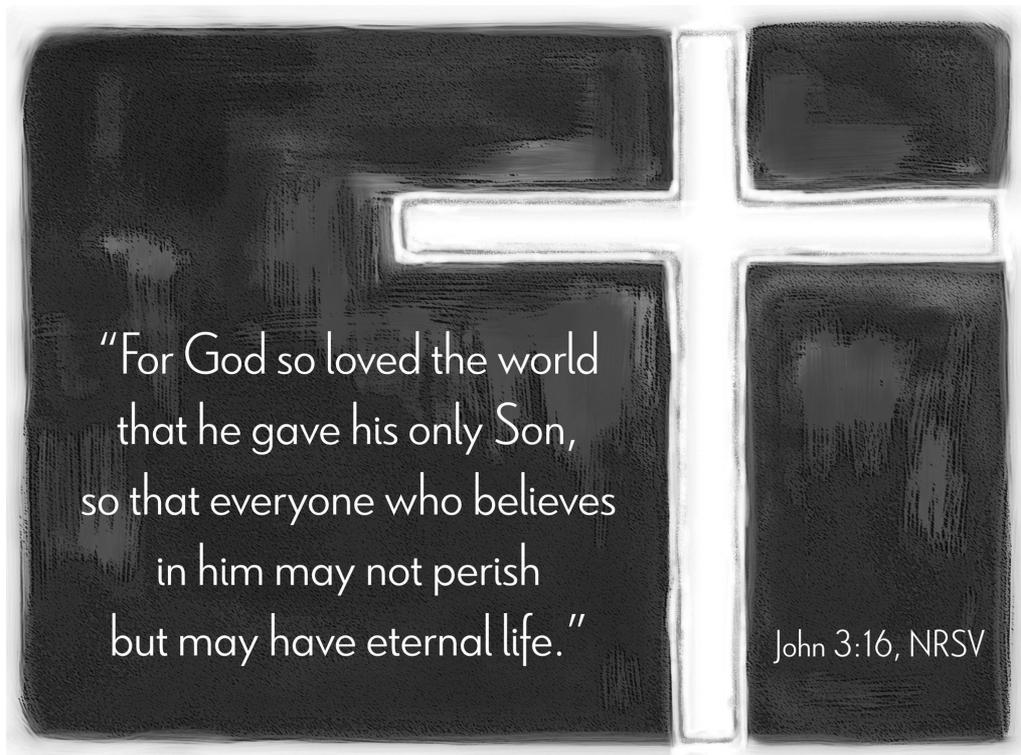


Second Sunday in Lent  
March 1, 2026



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

Rev. Samuel Mailleue  
[office@firstlutheranlesueur.org](mailto:office@firstlutheranlesueur.org)  
[www.firstlutheranlesueur.org](http://www.firstlutheranlesueur.org)

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

*Today's festival is a bridge between the Advent-Christmas-Epiphany cycle that comes to a close today and the Lent-Easter cycle that begins in several days. On a high mountain Jesus is revealed as God's beloved Son, echoing the words at his baptism. This vision of glory sustains us as Jesus faces his impending death in Jerusalem. We turn this week to Ash Wednesday and our yearly baptismal journey from Lent to Easter. Some churches put aside the alleluia at the conclusion of today's liturgy. This word of joy will be omitted during the penitential season of Lent and will be sung again at Easter.*

---

## **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,  
who forgives all our sin,  
whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt  
and blots out all offenses.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For failing to recognize your coming reign,  
and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,  
**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition,  
and for disdainning the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,  
**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For disregarding voices from the margin,  
and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world:  
Gracious God,  
**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent,  
and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life:  
Gracious God,  
**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound.  
Through faith, the free gift of God,  
you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.  
The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead  
dwells in you,  
pours God's love into your hearts,  
and gives you life and peace.

**Amen.**

## **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

### **OPENING HYMN**

*Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross* ELW #335

**(Vs. 1, 2 & 3)**

Public Domain

### **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 - *Have Mercy***

**ELW page 203**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray

**O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

---

### WORD

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

---

### FIRST READING—Genesis 12:1-4a

*God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey, they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.*

<sup>1</sup> The LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup> I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

<sup>4a</sup> So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him.

Word of God. Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God!**

### PSALM—Psalm 121

<sup>1</sup> I lift up my eyes to the hills;  
from where is my help to come?

<sup>2</sup> **My help comes from the LORD,  
the maker of heaven and earth.**

- <sup>3</sup> The LORD will not let your foot be moved  
nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.
- <sup>4</sup> **Behold, the keeper of Israel  
will neither slumber nor sleep;**
- <sup>5</sup> the LORD watches over you;  
the LORD is your shade at your right hand;
- <sup>6</sup> **the sun will not strike you by day,  
nor the moon by night.**
- <sup>7</sup> The LORD will preserve you from all evil  
and will keep your life.
- <sup>8</sup> **The LORD will watch over your going out and your coming in,  
from this time forth forevermore.**

## **SECOND READING—Romans 4:1-5, 13-17**

*In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God's promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.*

<sup>1</sup> What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? <sup>2</sup> For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. <sup>3</sup> For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." <sup>4</sup> Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. <sup>5</sup> But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

<sup>13</sup> For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. <sup>14</sup> For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup> For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

<sup>16</sup> For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, <sup>17</sup> as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

Word of God. Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God!**

The Holy Gospel according to the third chapter of John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**GOSPEL—John 3:1-17**

*A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.*

<sup>1</sup> Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. <sup>2</sup> He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person.” <sup>3</sup> Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” <sup>4</sup> Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” <sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. <sup>6</sup> What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup> Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ <sup>8</sup> The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” <sup>9</sup> Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” <sup>10</sup> Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?”

<sup>11</sup> “Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. <sup>12</sup> If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? <sup>13</sup> No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup> And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup> that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup> “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

<sup>17</sup> “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

The Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you, O Christ**

## HYMN OF THE DAY

*God Loved the World* ELW #323

**(Vs. 1, 4 & 5)**

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

Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

*A brief silence.*

Faithful One, you renew us by grace. As you have inspired faith through the work of church artists and hymnwriters throughout the ages, give your church the means to praise your beauty today.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Living One, you delight in this world. The sun and moon, the wind and the water declare your goodness. Preserve this earth, and protect conservationists, scientists, and all who labor in service to creation.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Ruling One, you bless us to be a blessing. Open the hearts of all leaders to seek the flourishing of every person and lend your help to all who wait for justice, deliverance, and peace.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Compassionate One, you send your Son to save. Declare your word of acceptance to any who feel condemned and lift up any brought low by hatred and exclusion. Tend to all who are struggling with illness or loss especially those in our heart and on our prayer list.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Guiding One, you watch over our going out and coming in. Bless newcomers and new members in this assembly and accompany those who have recently left this community to journey elsewhere.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Eternal One, you neither slumber nor sleep. Be our keeper in life and in death. Thank you for our beloved who have died, and for your promise which saves this whole world by your love.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.  
**Amen.**

---

## OFFERING

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

---

## WE OFFER OUR GIFTS AND TITHES

OFFERTORY HYMN

*When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* ELW #803

**(Vs. 4)**

Public Domain

## **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

O God, maker of heaven and earth,  
**your steadfast love embraces all creation.**  
**You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth  
and bring forth its bounty.**  
**Through these gifts of bread and wine,  
draw us into the death and life of your Son,  
who calls us to bear witness to his saving work.**  
**We ask this in Jesus' name.**  
**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**

Come to the table.

Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

*Lamb of God* ELW page 146

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

God of our salvation,  
we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls,  
reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey.

Through the body and blood of your Son,  
may we become Christ's body in the world,  
bearing witness to your love for all creation,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

---

## **SENDING**

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

---

## **BLESSING**

Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity:  
God, who calls all things into existence,  
Jesus Christ, who redeems us,  
and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation,  
✠ bless you now and always.

**Amen.**

## **CLOSING HYMN**

*Blessed Assurance* ELW #638

**(Vs. 1 & 3)**

Public Domain

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Believe the good news.

**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:**

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2023 Augsburg Fortress.

All rights reserved.

Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS103321—5/31/2026

One License—#A-716694—2/12/2026

Annual License with Podcast/Streaming

All rights reserved

CCLI—ccli.com

Copyright License #2540397—Expires 6/30/2026

Streaming License #20643840—Expires 6/30/2026

Songselect Advanced—Expires 6/30/2026

Shift Worship—Membership

Expires 12/25/2026

Sharefaith—Membership

Expires 6/2026

Church ArtPro—Account #74057560

Expires 12/15/2027





---

## WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

---

### March Ministry Focus: Food Shelf Month

March is Food Shelf Month at First Lutheran, a time when we are invited to live out our calling to love our neighbors in tangible ways. As people UNITED by Christ, God calls us to care for those who are hungry and in need, sharing God's abundance with compassion and generosity.

This month, we are highlighting two special projects to support our local food shelf:

#### M&M Canister Challenge

Social Ministry Team will handout canisters filled with M&M's, enjoy the sweet treat, and then refill the empty canister with quarters. When full, each canister holds a meaningful gift to help provide food and essential items for families in our community. It's a simple and fun way for all ages to participate. A collection jar for the quarters will be stationed in the Gathering Space.

#### Birthday Kit Drive

FLY is collecting donations for Birthday Kits to help families celebrate their special days, even during difficult times. Each kit will include cake mix, frosting, candles, and other party essentials. These kits will be donated to the local food shelf to bring joy and dignity to families facing food insecurity.

#### Birthday Kit Needs:

Cake Mix & Can of Frosting

Candles

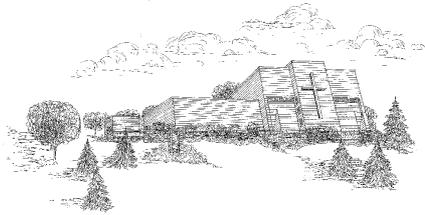
Gift Bag

Birthday Card

Party Favors

Through these projects, we share more than food—we share hope, care, and Christ's love. Thank you for your generosity and for being part of God's work in our community. Together, let us continue to serve with open hearts and willing hands.

Financial Update		
Week of	Amount Received	Amount Needed
2-22-26	\$1,200	\$4,523
YTD	\$44,976	\$40,706



## Weekly Schedule

Sunday, March 1	<b>9:00a</b> 10:15a	<b>Worship w/Holy Communion</b> Bible Study w/Pr. Sam
Monday, March 2	5:00p	Social Ministry Team Meeting
Wednesday, March 4	9:00a 6:00p <b>6:30p</b> 7-7:30p 7-8p	Staff Meeting Meal <b>Lenten Worship—reLENT</b> RISE RISE UP & FLY
Sunday, March 8	<b>9:00a</b> 10:15a	<b>Worship</b> First Choir Rehearsal

### Worship Assistants

#### March 1, 2026

Organist/Pianist:	Virginia Miller
First Choir Director:	Jennifer Weick
Acolytes:	Reece St. Pierre
Reader:	Edrie Barton
Usher:	Chuck Frauendienst
Greeters:	John Miller
Communion Asst:	Bonnie Keech John Miller
Council Member:	Miles Heille
Fellowship:	
Projection:	Tech Team
Audio:	Tech Team
Videographer:	Becky Pollack
Offering Counters:	Joanne Graff Bob Patrias
Altar Guild:	Marie Walker

#### March 8, 2026

Organist/Pianist:	Virginia Miller
First Choir Director:	Jennifer Weick
Acolytes:	Vance Vanden Einde
Reader:	Bonnie Keech
Usher:	Bob & Joan Reasoner
Greeters:	Stefanie Eischens
Council Member:	Lynnea Libra
Fellowship:	
Projection:	Tech Team
Audio:	Tech Team
Videographer:	Becky Pollack
Offering Counters:	John Miller Dave Johnson
Altar Guild:	Marie Walker