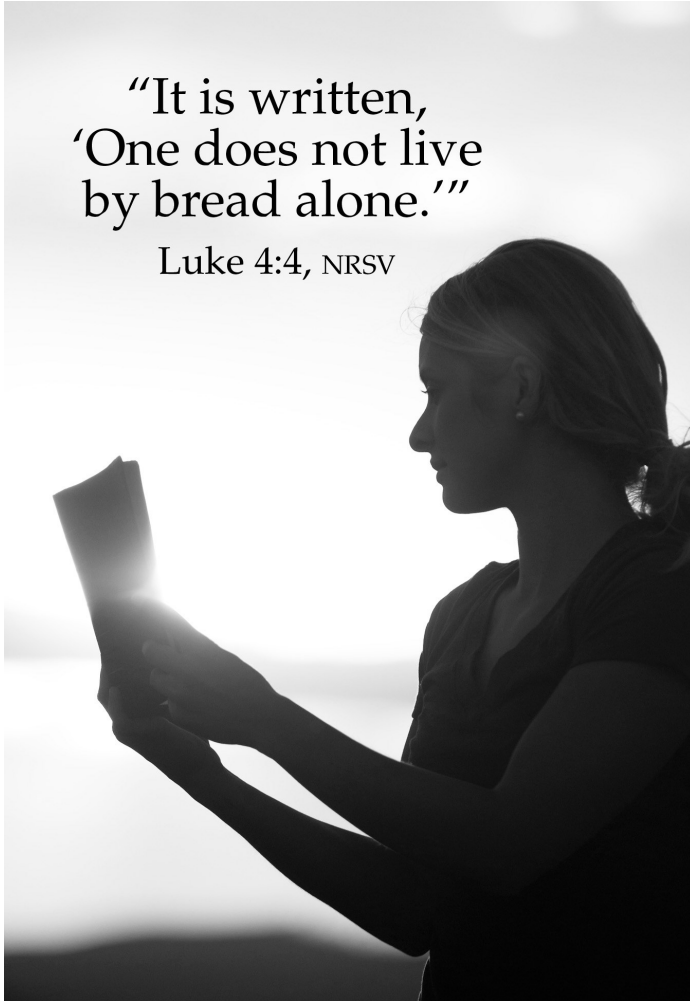


First Sunday in Lent
March 9, 2025

“It is written,
‘One does not live
by bread alone.’”

Luke 4:4, NRSV



First Lutheran Church
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Le Sueur, MN 56058
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UNITED by Christ, God call us to LOVE one another
As we RECEIVE, DISCOVER and PROCLAIM God's Word.

These forty days called Lent are like no other. It is our opportune time to return to the God who rescues, to receive the gifts of God's grace, to believe with the heart and confess with the mouth the wonder of God's love in Jesus, and to resist temptation at every turn. This is no small pilgrimage on which we have just embarked. It is a struggle Jesus knew. It is a struggle Jesus shares. The nearness of the Lord, in bread and wine, water and word, will uphold and sustain us.

GATHERING

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

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

TEMPLE TALK—Marie Walker

OPENING REFLECTION

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.
Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate One,
**you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love,
but our lives do not always reflect you
and your love for the world.
We do not show others the tender compassion
you have shown to us.
We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality
you grant to all people.**

**We oppress others,
even though you have set us free again and again.
We squander the abundant gifts of the earth.
Transform our lives
and guide us again in the way of the cross.
Amen.**

Beloved in Christ,
God's arms are always stretched open wide
to welcome the wandering ones home.
In + Christ your sins are forgiven.
You have a place in God's house forever.
Amen.

OPENING HYMN

**"O Lord, throughout These Forty Days" ELW #319
(Vs. 1, 2 & 4)**

One License #11862 & One License #52282

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 203
(Vs. 2 & 3)**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray
**O Lord God, you led your people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide us now, so that, following your Son, we may walk safely through the wilderness of this world toward the life you alone can give, through 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—Deuteronomy 26:1-11

The annual harvest festival, called the Feast of Weeks, provides the setting for this reading. This festival celebrates the first fruits of the produce of the land offered back to God in thanks. In this text, worshipers announce God's gracious acts on behalf of Israel.

¹ When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, ² you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. ³ You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, "Today I declare to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us." ⁴ When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the LORD your God, ⁵ you shall make this response before the LORD your God: "A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. ⁶ When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, ⁷ we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors; the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. ⁸ The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; ⁹ and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. ¹⁰ So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O LORD, have given me." You shall set it down before the LORD your God and bow down before the LORD your God. ¹¹ Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God!

PSALM—Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

- ¹ You who dwell in the shelter of the Most High,
who abide in the shadow of the Almighty—
² **you will say to the LORD, “My refuge and my stronghold,
my God in whom I put my trust.”**
- ⁹ Because you have made the LORD your refuge,
and the Most High your habitation,
¹⁰ **no evil will befall you,
nor shall affliction come near your dwelling.**
- ¹¹ For God will give the angels charge over you,
to guard you in all your ways.
¹² **Upon their hands they will bear you up,
lest you strike your foot against a stone.**
- ¹³ You will tread upon the lion cub and viper;
you will trample down the lion and the serpent.
¹⁴ **I will deliver those who cling to me;
I will uphold them, because they know my name.**
- ¹⁵ They will call me, and I will answer them;
I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue and honor them.
¹⁶ **With long life will I satisfy them,
and show them my salvation.**

SECOND READING—Romans 10:8b-13

Paul reminds the Christians at Rome of the foundation of their creed, the confession of faith in the risen Christ as Lord.

^{8b} “The word is near you,
on your lips and in your heart”
(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹ because if you confess with your lips
that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you
will be saved. ¹⁰ For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one
confesses with the mouth and so is saved. ¹¹ The scripture says, “No one who
believes in him will be put to shame.” ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and
Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³ For,
“Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God!

The Holy Gospel according to the fourth chapter of Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL—Luke 4:1-13

After being filled with the Holy Spirit at his baptism, Jesus is led in the wilderness. Through his responses to the temptations of the devil, he defines what it means to be called “the Son of God.”

¹ Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, ² where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. ³ The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.” ⁴ Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone.’”

⁵ Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. ⁶ And the devil said to him, “To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. ⁷ If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” ⁸ Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’”

⁹ Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, ¹⁰ for it is written,

‘He will command his angels concerning you,
to protect you,’

¹¹ and

‘On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’”

¹² Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” ¹³ When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, O Christ

MESSAGE

Rev. Samuel Mailleue

HYMN OF THE DAY

“When We Are Tested” ACS #922
(Vs. 1, 2, 3 & 4)

One License #AFMUS24017 & One License #29480

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

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

Gracious God, speak your word anew among your church. Strengthen it to withstand the temptation to turn inward in fear or complacency. Embolden church institutions to turn from self-preservation toward the self-giving love of Jesus. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Mothering God, speak the word of life into wilderness places and fertile fields. Grant wisdom to your people, that we may quell the urge to strip lands of their resources and instead preserve first fruits for future generations. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Almighty God, speak a word of wisdom to people in positions of power: mayors, councils, and tribal leaders, legislators, judges and juries, presidents, and monarchs. Help them discern your voice and follow your guidance, resisting the temptations of the evil one.

God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Steadfast God, speak words of courage to your people in the wilderness. Protect migrants and refugees on perilous journeys, that they find safe refuge and a portion in the bounty you have given humanity to share.

God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Loving God, speak gently to all who are alone. Bless lay ministers, home communion teams, and others who attend to those who are overlooked, vulnerable, or lonely, that all find belonging in your love. We pray for all who are ill especially those in our hearts and on our prayer list.

God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Living God, we give thanks for all the faithful who have crossed the threshold from death to life. Guide us who are living to learn from their wisdom and follow their example.

God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.

Amen.

OFFERING

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

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS AND TITHES

OFFERTORY HYMN

“Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery” ELW #334

(Vs. Lent 1)

One License #00169

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Gracious Provider,
**you set your immense treasures among us,
opening your heart to the world.
As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love,
deepen our commitment to sharing those
treasures with others,
through our Savior, Jesus Christ.
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

God our tender parent,
God the crucified one,
God the reconciling Spirit,
✠ bless you now and forever.
Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

“Bless Now, O God, the Journey” ELW #326
(Vs. 1 & 2)

One License #51526

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.
Thanks be to God.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

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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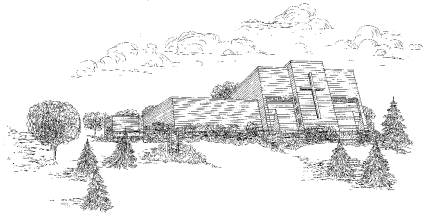
Sharefaith—Membership
Expires 6/2025

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

March Ministry Focus: Le Sueur Food Shelf—Monetary or food donations are being accepted in the Gathering Space.

Bishop Regina Hassanally will be our guest preacher on Sunday, March 16. Please join Bishop Hassanally after worship for a Q & A.

Sunday, March 16 we will be celebrating Marian Alinder's 103rd birthday. Please stay for fellowship after worship.



Weekly Schedule

Sunday, March 9	9:00a 10:00a	Worship First Choir Rehearsal
Wednesday, March 12	Lenten Worship 5:30p 6:30p 6:50p 6:50p	Dinner & Fellowship (UMC) Worship Learning for RISE Learning for Adults, RISE UP, FLY
Sunday, March 16	9:00a 10:00a 10:00a	Worship w/Holy Communion Bishop Regina Hassanally Q & A with Bishop Hassanally First Choir Rehearsal

Worship Assistants

March 9, 2024

Organist/Pianist:	Virginia Miller
First Choir Director:	Jennifer Weick
Acolytes:	Vance Vanden Einde
Reader:	Gene Dwyer
Usher:	John Miller
Greeters:	Dunning Family
Council Member:	Vic Pengilly
Fellowship:	
Projection:	Tech Team
Audio:	Tech Team
Videographer:	Becky Pollack
Offering Counters:	John Miller Dave Johnson
Altar Guild:	Rita Patrias Theresa Sullivan

March 16, 2025

Organist/Pianist:	Virginia Miller
First Choir Director:	Jennifer Weick
Acolytes:	Sophie Tews
Reader:	Bob Reasoner
Usher:	Steve Olson
Greeters:	McGuire Family
Communion Servers:	Megan & Mia Schwarz
Council Member:	Megan Schwarz
Fellowship:	Marian Alinder Family
Projection:	Tech Team
Audio:	Tech Team
Videographer:	Becky Pollack
Offering Counters:	Bob Bartle Joanne Graff
Altar Guild:	Rita Patrias Theresa Sullivan