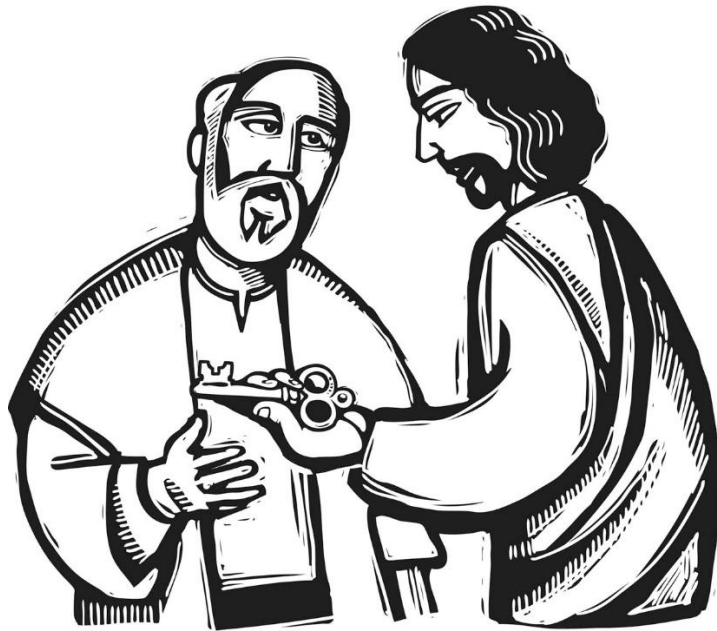


13th Sunday after Pentecost
August 23, 2026

“YOU ARE THE
MESSIAH,
THE SON OF THE
LIVING GOD.”

MATTHEW 16:16, NRSV



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.

In Isaiah the people are advised to look to their spiritual ancestors as the rock from which they were hewn. Jesus declares that the church will be built on the rock of Peter's bold confession of faith. God's word of reconciliation and God's mercy are keys to the church's mission. Paul urges us to not be conformed to this world but to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice, using our individual gifts to build up the body of Christ. From the table we go forth to offer our spiritual worship through word and deed.

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,
whose compassion endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,

we confess to you all our sins.

Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves.

In your mercy, call us back to you.

Your yoke is easy and your burden is light.

Restore us to dwell in your peace.

In Christ's name we pray,

Amen.

Jesus says, "Come to me,
all you who are weary
and are carrying heavy burdens,
and I will give you rest."

In the name of God,
Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit,
your sins are forgiven.
Rest in God's love.

Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OPENING HYMN

***Built on a Rock* ELW #652
(Vs. 1, 2 & 4)**

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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- *spoken*

ELW page 138

CANTICLE

***Give to Our God Immortal Praise!* ELW #848
(Vs. 3)**

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray

**O God, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the
rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of
your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus
Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE – Blessing of the Backpacks

WORD

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

FIRST READING— Isaiah 51:1-6

Just as God had called Abraham and Sarah and given them many descendants, so now God offers comfort to Zion. God's deliverance will come soon and will never end.

¹ Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness,
you who seek the LORD.

Look to the rock from which you were hewn
and to the quarry from which you were dug.

² Look to Abraham your father
and to Sarah, who bore you,
for he was but one when I called him,
but I blessed him and made him many.

³ For the LORD will comfort Zion;
he will comfort all her waste places
and will make her wilderness like Eden,
her desert like the garden of the LORD;
joy and gladness will be found in her,
thanksgiving and the voice of song.

⁴ Listen to me, my people,
and give heed to me, my nation,
for a teaching will go out from me
and my justice for a light to the peoples.

⁵ I will bring near my deliverance swiftly;
my salvation has gone out,
and my arms will rule the peoples;
the coastlands wait for me,
and for my arm they hope.

⁶ Lift up your eyes to the heavens
and look at the earth beneath,
for the heavens will vanish like smoke,
the earth will wear out like a garment,

and those who live on it will die like gnats,
but my salvation will be forever,
and my deliverance will never be ended.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God!

PSALM— Psalm 138

¹ I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with my whole heart;
before the gods I will sing your praise.

² **I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name,
because of your steadfast love and faithfulness;
for you have glorified your name and your word above all things.**

³ When I called, you answered me;
you increased my strength within me.

⁴ **All the rulers of the earth will praise you, O LORD,
when they have heard the words of your mouth.**

⁵ They will sing of the ways of the LORD,
that great is the glory of the LORD.

⁶ **The LORD is high, yet cares for the lowly,
perceiving the haughty from afar.**

⁷ Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe;
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your
right hand shall save me.

⁸ **You will make good your purpose for me;
O LORD, your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the
works of your hands.**

SECOND READING— Romans 12:1-8

In response to God's merciful activity, we are to worship by living holistic, God-pleasing lives. Our values and viewpoints are not molded by the time in which we live but are transformed by the Spirit's renewing work. God's grace empowers different forms of service among Christians, but all forms of ministry function to build up the body of Christ.

¹ I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, on the basis of God's mercy, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is

your reasonable act of worship. ² Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

³ For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴ For as in one body we have many members and not all the members have the same function, ⁵ so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶ We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸ the encourager, in encouragement; the giver, in sincerity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION—*Halle, Halle, Hallelujah*

ELW #172

The Holy Gospel according to the sixteenth chapter of Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL— Matthew 16:13-20

At a climactic point in Jesus' ministry, God reveals to Peter that Jesus is "the Messiah, the Son of the living God," and Jesus responds with the promise of a church that will overcome the very gates of Hades.

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴ And they said, "Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵ He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

²⁰ Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, O Christ

MESSAGE

Rev. Sam Mailleue

HYMN OF THE DAY

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less ELW #596

(Vs. 1, 2 & 3)

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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

With bold trust in God's unfailing provision, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

God, our rock, you are the foundation on which the church is built. Strengthen and encourage your faithful people everywhere they gather, that they boldly proclaim your word of life to all the world.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You spoke and all creation came into being. Field and forest, wetland and wilderness—all reveal your glory. Sustain and nourish your creation especially the Boundary Water Canoe Area. Teach us to be wise stewards of all you have made.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You bring deliverance to nations and peoples. Come to the aid of nations experiencing war, conflict, disease, famine, and disaster. Guide the work of relief agencies and peacemaking organizations.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You regard the lowly and hear us when we cry out to you. Be present among all who struggle with addiction, housing insecurity, incarceration, and mental illness, that they know they are not alone. Hear our prayers for all in need this day especially those on our prayer list and in our hearts.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You draw together people with differing gifts. Lift up the many and varied gifts and talents of this congregation and strengthen the bonds of fellowship that all may be united as the body of Christ.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Your steadfast love endures forever. We give thanks for the faithful who died in the hope of this promise. Strengthen us in faith until the day we join them at your eternal banquet.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised. All this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

OFFERING

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

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS AND TITHES

OFFERTORY HYMN

Take My Life, That I May Be ELW #685

(Vs. 4)

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OFFERTORY PRAYER

Loving God,

we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts.

**Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love,
so that all creation can taste your abundance.**

**We ask this in the name of Jesus,
through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever.
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

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

BLESSING

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer,

✠ one God,

bless, heal, and hold you
today and always.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me ELW #623

(Vs. 1, 2 & 3)

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DISMISSAL

Heaven has come near. Go, share 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.*

Financial Update		
Week of	Amount Received	Amount Needed
8-16-26	\$4,557	\$4,542
YTD	\$143,793	\$153,779



Acknowledgements:

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Shift Worship—Membership
Expires 12/25/2026

Sharefaith—Membership
Expires 6/2027

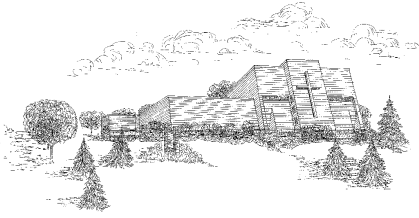
WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

August Ministry Focus: Share the Harvest - August Produce Exchange

Throughout the Sundays in August, we'll host a **Produce Exchange** where anyone is welcome to bring extra fruits, vegetables, or flowers to share.

Those who take home fresh produce are encouraged to make a **freewill cash donation**. All donations will go toward purchasing supplies for **Global Health Ministries Newborn Kits**, which we will assemble together during our **God's Work. Our Hands.** service event in September. All left over produce will be donated to the Le Sueur Food Shelf.

Thank you to the Pollack family for the Altar Flowers today. The flowers are in the memory of Becky Pollack's grandmother.



Weekly Schedule

Sunday, August 23	9:00a	Worship Blessing of the Backpacks
Tuesday, August 25	9:00a	First Quilting
Wednesday, August 26	9:00a	Staff Meeting
Sunday, August 30	9:00a	Worship

Worship Assistants

August 23, 2026		August 30, 2026	
Organist/Pianist:	Virginia Miller	Organist/Pianist:	Virginia Miller
First Choir Director:	Jennifer Weick	First Choir Director:	Jennifer Weick
Acolytes:	Lyndon Rassmussen	Acolytes:	Ezra Carlen
Reader:	Edrie Barton	Reader:	Rita Patrias
Usher:	LeRoy May	Usher:	John Miller
Greeters:	John Miller	Greeters:	Stefanie Eischens
Council Member:	Callie Greisen	Council Member:	Joan May
Fellowship:		Fellowship:	
Projection:	Tech Team	Projection:	Tech Team
Audio:	Tech Team	Audio:	Tech Team
Videographer:	Becky Pollack	Videographer:	Becky Pollack
Offering Counters:	Joanne Graff Joan May	Offering Counters:	Bob Patrias Bob Bartle
Altar Guild:	Bob & Rita Patrias	Altar Guild:	Bob & Rita Patrias