

14th Sunday after Pentecost
September 14, 2025



The Parable of the Lost Sheep

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.

The grumbling of the religious leaders in today's gospel is actually our holy hope: This Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. That our God seeks and saves the lost is not only a holy hope, it is our only hope. As the writer of 1 Timothy reminds us, "The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." Thanks be to God.

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,
our maker, our helper, and our keeper.

Amen.

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin
in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful and loving God,

we are your stiff-necked people.

We trample on the needy.

We grumble about your grace to others.

We turn away from the poor.

Have mercy on us and forgive our sins.

**Rejoice over us as ones who were lost
and have been found.**

Amen.

Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful.
Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners.
You who were lost have been found.
In the name of ✝ Jesus, your sins are forgiven!
Amen.

OPENING HYMN

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing **ELW #807**

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

ELW page 138

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart! **ELW #873**

(Vs. 6)

Public Domain

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray

O God, overflowing with mercy and compassion, you lead back to yourself all those who go astray. Preserve your people in your loving care, that we may reject whatever is contrary to you and may follow all things that sustain our life in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST CHOIR RECOGNITION

FIRST CHOIR

Amazing Grace My Chains Are Gone, arr. Koerts

One License #241958 & CCLI #4768151

WORD

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

FIRST READING—Exodus 32:7-14

While Moses is on Mount Sinai, the people grow restless and make a golden calf to worship. Today's reading shows Moses as the mediator between an angry God and a sinful people. Moses reminds God that the Israelites are God's own people, and boldly asks for mercy for them.

⁷ The LORD said to Moses, "Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; ⁸ they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!' " ⁹ The LORD said to Moses, "I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. ¹⁰ Now let me alone so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them, and of you I will make a great nation."

¹¹ But Moses implored the LORD his God and said, "O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? ¹² Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. ¹³ Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, 'I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.' " ¹⁴ And the LORD changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God!

PSALM—Psalm 51:1-10

¹ Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

² **Wash me through and through from my wickedness,
and cleanse me from my sin.**

- ³ For I know my offenses,
and my sin is ever before me.
- ⁴ **Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight;
so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.**
- ⁵ Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my mother's womb.
- ⁶ **Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom deep within.**
- ⁷ Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.
- ⁸ **Let me hear joy and gladness;
that the body you have broken may rejoice.**
- ⁹ Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my wickedness.
- ¹⁰ **Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.**

SECOND READING—1 Timothy 1:12-17

The letters to Timothy and Titus are called the pastoral epistles because they contain advice especially intended for leaders in the church. Here the mercy shown to Paul, who once persecuted the church, is cited as evidence that even the most unworthy may become witnesses to the grace of God.

¹² I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he considered me faithful and appointed me to his service, ¹³ even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, ¹⁴ and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost. ¹⁶ But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience as an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. ¹⁷ To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God!

The Holy Gospel according to the fifteenth chapter of Luke.
Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL— Luke 15:1-10

Jesus tells two stories that suggest a curious connection between the lost being found and sinners repenting. God takes the initiative to find sinners, each of whom is so precious to God that their recovery brings joy in heaven.

¹ Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

³ So he told them this parable: ⁴ “Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? ⁵ And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. ⁶ And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my lost sheep.’ ⁷ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

⁸ “Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹ And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ ¹⁰ Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, O Christ

MESSAGE**Rev. Sam Mailleue****HYMN OF THE DAY*****Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling* ELW #608****(Vs. 1 & 3)**

Public Domain

BLESSING OF THE BEDDING

L: God, our neighbors around the world are in need of hope. Your Spirit is a mighty force, your whispers of hope bring light into the world. Open our hearts and hands to see your presence in our neighborhoods and across the world.

C: Jesus, help us speak words of hope to our neighbors.

L: God, we give you thanks for the pieces of sheets, pillow covers, blankets, duvets, and beds that were built. May their presence be a sign of hope, may these bedroom items wrap our neighbors in unending love.

C: Jesus, help us reach out in hope to our neighbors.

L: God, we give thanks for all the hands that fashioned hope into a bed, for the hands that assembled and joined wood into frames, for the hands that continually open wider so that no one feels left out.

C: Jesus, help us see hope in our neighbors.

L: God, be with our neighbors who will receive these gifts. May they be wrapped in love, may they taste your goodness, may they touch signs of your hope. Whether or not we know their names or where they live, they are our neighbors, our brothers and sisters in Christ. We pray all this in the name of Jesus, the One who is our hope.

C: Amen.

L: Recognizing God's abundant hope, go and be a sign of hope to our neighbors near and far: offering hands to hold, sweet scents of justice, and a feast of God's goodness. In the name of the Father, + the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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

Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need.
A brief silence.

Merciful God, pour out your grace upon your church. Forgive us for the times when
we have been unfaithful, and renew our commitment to your gospel of love.

Empower us to live as a community of mercy.

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Merciful God, we ask forgiveness for the ways we have neglected and harmed this
earth and its creatures. Confirm our commitment to care for all you have made, and
grant us wisdom and strength to take action toward restoring your creation to its
fullness.

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Merciful God, govern all who hold positions of power and authority. Instruct them
to make just decisions that serve the common good. Make them instruments of
your mercy in the world, working to heal divisions and promote peace.

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Merciful God, we lift up all who suffer. Bring healing, comfort, and peace to those who are sick, grieving, or in pain especially those on our prayer list and in our hearts. Give us compassionate hearts to accompany those who are hurting and courage to work for justice and mercy.

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Merciful God, bind us together as a community of forgiveness and love. Supply us with humility to seek forgiveness when we have wronged one another and generosity to extend mercy when we have been wronged.

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Merciful God, we remember in love those who have departed this life. Console those who mourn, and give them the hope of resurrection.

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend.

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

Take My Life, That I May Be **ELW #685**
(Vs. 5)

Public Domain

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Lord of the harvest,
we return to you a portion of what you have given to us.
Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches,
but on you, who richly provides for us.
Multiply what we have gathered
to bless all who are suffering and in need,
through Jesus Christ our 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

The God of righteousness,
who gives justice to the oppressed,
who gives food to the hungry,
who sets the prisoners free,
✠ bless you now and forever.
Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

Savior, Again to Your Dear Name ELW #534
(Vs. 1 & 2)
Public Domain

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Do not lose heart.
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 12/25/2025

Sharefaith—Membership
Expires 6/2026

Church ArtPro—Account #74057560
Expires 12/15/2025

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

September Ministry Focus: God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday, Sept. 7th – Serving Together Locally and Globally

Each year, congregations across the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) join together for *God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday*—a day dedicated to serving our neighbors in love. This year, we again are excited to take part by combining local service projects with a global outreach effort through Global Health Ministry.

Locally, we will be putting our hands to work on projects that strengthen our community: helping with outdoor cleanup, projects at Mound Cemetery, writing notes to Veterans for the Christmas boxes, helping the Quilting ministry, and supporting the local nonprofit thrift store Treasures in Town. These projects remind us that God calls us to love and serve right where we are planted.

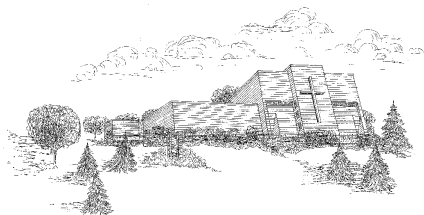
At the same time, we are collecting supplies to assemble **Hospice Kits** for Global Health Ministry, which are distributed around the world to provide care and comfort for those in their final stages of life. These kits are a tangible way we can extend compassion across borders, offering dignity and comfort to people we may never meet, yet who are our siblings in Christ.

Today we will Bless the Bedding for Sleep in Heavenly Peace and we will recognize the First Choir. After worship join in fellowship in honor of the First Choir, hosted by the Millers.

Faith Formation begins on Wednesday, September 17 at UMC with a meal at 6:00pm.

Financial Update		
Week of	Amount Received	Amount Needed
9-7-25	\$2,855	\$4,542
YTD	\$154,710	\$168,039

Year to Date Financial Results			
Month Ending	Actual Received	Actual Expense	Net Gain/(Loss)
8-31-2025	\$153,849	\$152,167	\$1,682



Weekly Schedule

Sunday, September 14	9:00a	Worship First Choir Recognition Blessing of the Bedding
Monday, September 15	6:00p	Church Council
Tuesday, September 16	10:00a 10:15a	Coffee/Mary Unit Bible Study/Mary Unit
Wednesday, September 17	9:00a 6:00p 6:30-7:30p 6:30-8p 6:30-8p	Staff Meeting Meal @ UMC RISE RISE UP FLY
Thursday, September 18		Newsletter Deadline
Sunday, September 21	9:00a	Worship with Holy Communion

Worship Assistants

September 14, 2025

Organist/Pianist:	Virginia Miller
First Choir Director:	Jennifer Weick
Acolytes:	Vance Vanden Einde
Reader:	Rachel Wagner
Usher:	LeRoy May
Greeters:	Theresa Sullivan
Council Member:	Joan May
Fellowship:	Millers
Projection:	Tech Team
Audio:	Tech Team
Videographer:	Becky Pollack
Offering Counters:	Bob Bartle Joanne Graff
Altar Guild:	Marie Walker

September 21, 2025

Organist/Pianist:	Gordon Gregersen
First Choir Director:	Jennifer Weick
Acolytes:	Liam Haaland
Reader:	Ian Mailleue
Usher:	John Miller
Greeters:	Melissa Schwartz
Communion Asst:	
Council Member:	Sara Carrigan
Fellowship:	
Projection:	Tech Team
Audio:	Tech Team
Videographer:	Becky Pollack
Offering Counters:	Dave Johnson John Miller
Altar Guild:	Marie Walker