

17th Sunday after Pentecost
September 20, 2026

The Sound Of Faith



First Lutheran Church
116 Inner Drive
Le Sueur, MN 56058
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Rev. Samuel Mailleue
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UNITED by Christ, God calls us to LOVE one another
As we RECEIVE, DISCOVER and PROCLAIM God's Word.

GATHERING

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

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING REFLECTION

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Even when we come burdened by sin, doubt, or weariness, God meets us with mercy and puts a new song in our hearts.

God of mercy, we come before you with words unspoken, wounds unhealed, and choices we regret. We have not always sung your praise with our lives.

Forgive us, Lord. Tune our hearts again to your grace.

When fear has silenced our faith –

Forgive us Lord, and teach us to sing.

When selfishness has drowned out the needs of our neighbors –

Forgive us, Lord, and teach us to love.

When we have forgotten that your mercy is greater than our failure –

Forgive us, Lord, and teach us to receive your peace.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God,

we confess that our lives are often out of tune with your love. We have held onto anger, neglected compassion, and trusted our own strength more than your grace. We have failed to join the song of justice, kindness, and hope that you call us to sing. Forgive us. Restore us. Place within us a new song – a song of faith that rises above shame, fear, and despair. Through Jesus Christ, who forgives, renews, and makes all things new. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Hear the good news: God's love does not depend on the perfection of our song. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, welcomed and made new.
Thanks be to God. We are forgiven and free to sing again. Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OPENING HYMN

Earth and All Stars! ELW #731
(Vs. 2 & 5)
One License #02449

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.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty ELW #858
(Vs. 1 & 4)
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CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

IMPORTANCE OF SONGS TO FAITH

HYMN

How Great Thou Art ELW #856

(Vs. 1 & 4)

One License #198390

CHOIR ANTHEM

Who But The Lord

Arr. Courney

One License #51256

WORD

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

FIRST READING—Exodus 15:1-3, 11-18

¹ Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the LORD:

“I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously;
horse and rider he has thrown into the sea.

² The LORD is my strength and my might,
and he has become my salvation;
this is my God, and I will praise him;
my father’s God, and I will exalt him.

³ The LORD is a warrior;
the LORD is his name.

¹¹ Who is like you, O LORD, among the gods?
Who is like you, majestic in holiness,
awesome in splendor, doing wonders?

¹² You stretched out your right hand;
the earth swallowed them.

¹³ In your steadfast love you led the people whom you redeemed;
you guided them by your strength to your holy abode.

¹⁴ The peoples heard; they trembled;
pangs seized the inhabitants of Philistia.

¹⁵ Then the chiefs of Edom were dismayed;
trembling seized the leaders of Moab;
all the inhabitants of Canaan melted away.

¹⁶ Terror and dread fell upon them;
by the might of your arm, they became still as a stone
until your people, O LORD, passed by,
until the people whom you acquired passed by.
¹⁷ You brought them in and planted them on the mountain of your own
possession,
the place, O LORD, that you made your abode,
the sanctuary, O LORD, that your hands have established.
¹⁸ The LORD will reign forever and ever.”

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God!

PSALM—Psalm 65

¹ Praise is due to you,
O God, in Zion,
and to you shall vows be performed,

**² O you who answer prayer!
To you all flesh shall come.**

³ When deeds of iniquity overwhelm us,
you forgive our transgressions.

**⁴ Happy are those whom you choose and bring near
to live in your courts.**

**We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house,
your holy temple.**

⁵ By awesome deeds you answer us with deliverance,
O God of our salvation;
you are the hope of all the ends of the earth
and of the farthest seas.

**⁶ By your strength you established the mountains;
you are girded with might.**

⁷ You silence the roaring of the seas,
the roaring of their waves,
the tumult of the peoples.

**⁸ Those who live at earth’s farthest bounds are awed by your signs;
you make the gateways of the morning and the evening shout for joy**

⁹ You visit the earth and water it;
you greatly enrich it;

the river of God is full of water;
you provide the people with grain,
for so you have prepared it.

¹⁰ **You water its furrows abundantly,
settling its ridges,
softening it with showers,
and blessing its growth.**

¹¹ You crown the year with your bounty;
your wagon tracks overflow with richness.

¹² **The pastures of the wilderness overflow;
the hills gird themselves with joy;**

¹³ the meadows clothe themselves with flocks;
the valleys deck themselves with grain;
they shout and sing together for joy.

SECOND READING—Acts 16:16-34

¹⁶ One day as we were going to the place of prayer, we met a female slave who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners a great deal of money by fortune-telling. ¹⁷ While she followed Paul and us, she would cry out, “These men are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation.” ¹⁸ She kept doing this for many days. But Paul, very much annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, “I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.” And it came out that very hour.

¹⁹ But when her owners saw that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the authorities. ²⁰ When they had brought them before the magistrates, they said, “These men, these Jews, are disturbing our city ²¹ and are advocating customs that are not lawful for us, being Romans, to adopt or observe.” ²² The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates had them stripped of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods. ²³ After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely. ²⁴ Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

²⁵ About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. ²⁶ Suddenly there was an earthquake so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken, and immediately all

the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened. ²⁷ When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped. ²⁸ But Paul shouted in a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." ²⁹ The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. ³⁰ Then he brought them outside and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" ³¹ They answered, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." ³² They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. ³³ At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay. ³⁴ He brought them up into the house and set food before them, and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God.

Word of God. Word of Life.
Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil ELW #512

The Holy Gospel according to the twenty-sixth chapter of Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL—Matthew 26:26-30

²⁶ While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." ²⁷ Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you, ²⁸ for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ²⁹ I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

³⁰ When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, O Christ

MESSAGE

Rev. Sam Mailleue

HYMN OF THE DAY

When in Our Music God Is Glorified ELW #850
(Vs. 1, 2 & 4)

One License #03030 & CCLI #2631390

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

Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

A brief silence.

Hold your church accountable for our unwillingness to share your good news and our anger at your generosity to others. Nourish us by your grace to be witnesses to your love.

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

Guide scientists and researchers studying responses to the climate crisis so that all your creation may inspire us to give thanks for your great goodness. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Show employers the benefits of equal pay standards for all their employees. Reconcile conflicts between employees. Fill places of employment with camaraderie, and bring an end to employment disparity. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Encourage any who cannot work or who cannot work a full day with the truth that their value comes from your everlasting love for them. Provide for those who are injured, ill, and for all in any need especially those on our prayer list and in our hearts.

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

Strengthen all those in this congregation whose labor serves the needs of others in the community especially teachers, musicians and choir directors. Inspire all in this congregation to support community endeavors with our time and talents.

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

Comfort us with the promise of the resurrection as we remember all our loved ones whose desire to be with Jesus is fulfilled.

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

Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.

OFFERING

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

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS AND TITHES

OFFERTORY HYMN

***Lord, Be Glorified* ELW #744
(Vs. 2)**

One License #93152

OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of creation,
you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly.
All blessings are from you;
make us generous with what we have.
Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts
in service to you and in love to our neighbors,
today and always.
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

Christ invites you to this table.

All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

Lamb of God ELW page 146

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Sustaining God,

with this bread and cup,

you nourish us with mercy and abundant life.

By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world.

Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love,

following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.

Amen.

SENDING

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

BLESSING

The God of love

draw you into full accord and one mind,

in the body of Christ Jesus.

Amen.

The God of hope

grant you strength and joy in all circumstances

through the interceding of the Spirit.

Amen.

The God of grace

✠ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

Beautiful Savior ELW #838

(Vs. 1 & 4)

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DISMISSAL

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

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:

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Shift Worship—Membership

Expires 12/25/2026

Sharefaith—Membership

Expires 6/2027

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

September Ministry Focus: God's Work, Our Hands

Sunday, September 13

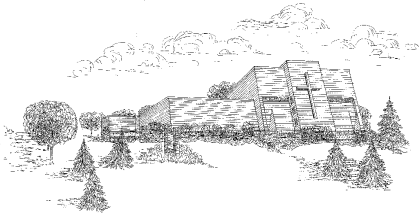
God's Work. Our Hands., the ELCA's annual day of service! We come together as the hands and feet of Christ to serve our neighbors through meaningful projects that make a difference in our community and beyond.

One of our featured projects will be assembling Global Health Ministries Newborn Kits, along with other opportunities for all ages to participate. Whether you're young or young at heart, there will be a way for everyone to share God's love through service.

Sound of Faith – Thank you to Virginia Miller, Jennifer Weick and the choir members for our special worship service centered on the Sound of Faith.

The Altar Flowers today were given by Stefanie Eischens in honor of her Grandma Merritt.

Financial Update		
Week of	Amount Received	Amount Needed
9-13-2026	\$605	\$4,523
YTD	\$153,289	\$171,871



Weekly Schedule

Sunday, September 20	9:00a	Worship w/Holy Communion The Sound of Faith
Monday, September 21	6:00p	Church Council
Tuesday, September 22	9:00a	First Quilting
Wednesday, September 23	9:00a 6:00p 6:30-7:30p	Staff Meeting Meal RISE / RISE UP
Sunday, September 27	9:00a	Worship

Worship Assistants

September 20, 2026

Organist/Pianist: Virginia Miller
 First Choir Director: Jennifer Weick
 Acolytes: Vance Vanden Einde
 Reader: Melissa Schwartz
 Usher: Steve Olson
 Greeters: Melissa Schwartz
 Communion Asst: LeRoy & Joan May
 Council Member: Joan May
 Fellowship: First Choir – NY Trip
 Projection: Tech Team
 Audio: Tech Team
 Videographer: Becky Pollack
 Offering Counters: Dave Johnson
 Bob Bartle
 Altar Guild: Stefanie Eischens
 Marie Walker

September 27, 2026

Organist/Pianist: Margo Bjork
 First Choir Director: Jennifer Weick
 Acolytes: Reece St. Pierre
 Reader: Bonnie Keech
 Usher: LeRoy May
 Greeters: Stefanie Eischens
 Council Member: Sara Carrigan
 Fellowship:
 Projection: Tech Team
 Audio: Tech Team
 Videographer: Becky Pollack
 Offering Counters: Joan May
 Bob Patrias
 Altar Guild: Stefanie Eischens
 Marie Walker