

13th Sunday after Pentecost  
September 7, 2025

# The Cost of DISCIPLESHIP

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

*Called to contemplate the cost of discipleship, we might be helped by translating Paul's request to Philemon into our prayer of the day: Refresh my heart in Christ. Strengthened by the company and forgiveness of Christ in holy communion and recalling God's grace in remembrance of baptism, we can be strengthened in this hour to "choose life"—to choose life in God as our own.*

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## GATHERING

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

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### PRELUDE

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### 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

*God's Work, Our Hands* ACS #1000  
(Vs. 1 & 2)

- 1     **God's work, our hands: working together,  
building a future, repairing the world,  
raising up homes, planting new gardens,  
feeding the hungry and shelt'ring the cold.  
Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,  
sharing the good news of your gospel.**
- 2     **God's work, our feet: trav'ling together,  
following Jesus to places unknown,  
walking as friends, marching for freedom,  
running the race with God's future the goal.  
Bless, God, our feet as we follow your way,  
sharing the good news of your gospel.**

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954

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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

**ELW page 138**

## CANTICLE OF PRAISE

*Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!* ELW #873  
(Vs. 6)

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## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray

**Direct us, O Lord God, in all our doings with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

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### WORD

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

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#### **FIRST READING—Deuteronomy 30:15-20**

*Moses speaks to the Israelites, who are about to enter the land promised to their ancestors. In this passage, he lays out the stark choice before them: choose life by loving and obeying the LORD; or choose death by following other gods.*

<sup>15</sup> “See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. <sup>16</sup> If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. <sup>17</sup> But if your heart turns away and you do not hear but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, <sup>18</sup> I declare to you today that you shall certainly perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. <sup>19</sup> I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, <sup>20</sup> loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him, for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.”

Word of God. Word of Life

**Thanks be to God!**

#### **PSALM—Psalm 1**

<sup>1</sup> Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked,  
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

<sup>2</sup> **Their delight is in the law of the LORD,  
and they meditate on God's teaching day and night.**

<sup>3</sup> They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither;  
everything they do shall prosper.

<sup>4</sup> **It is not so with the wicked;  
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.**

<sup>5</sup> Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes,  
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

<sup>6</sup> **For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,  
but the way of the wicked shall be destroyed.**

## **SECOND READING—Philemon 1-21**

*Onesimus, a new Christian and a man enslaved by Philemon, has helped Paul, who is in prison. Paul writes this letter to his friend Philemon to encourage him to receive Onesimus, upon his return, as a sibling in Christ.*

<sup>1</sup> Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,  
To our beloved coworker Philemon, <sup>2</sup> to our sister Apphia, to our fellow soldier Archippus, and to the church in your house:

<sup>3</sup> Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>4</sup> I thank my God always when I mention you in my prayers, <sup>5</sup> because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. <sup>6</sup> I pray that the partnership of your faith may become effective as you comprehend all the good that we share in Christ. <sup>7</sup> I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

<sup>8</sup> For this reason, though I am more than bold enough in Christ to command you to do the right thing, <sup>9</sup> yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. <sup>10</sup> I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. <sup>11</sup> Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me. <sup>12</sup> I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. <sup>13</sup> I wanted to keep him with me so that he might minister to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel, <sup>14</sup> but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. <sup>15</sup> Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back for the long term, <sup>16</sup> no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

<sup>17</sup> So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. <sup>18</sup> If he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge that to me. <sup>19</sup> I, Paul,

am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. <sup>20</sup> Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. <sup>21</sup> Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.

Word of God. Word of Life

**Thanks be to God!**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION—*Alleluia***

**ELW page #142**

The Holy Gospel according to the fourteenth chapter of Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**GOSPEL—Luke 14:25-33**

*Jesus speaks frankly about the costs of discipleship. Those who follow him should know from the outset that completing the course of discipleship will finally mean renouncing all other allegiances.*

<sup>25</sup> Now large crowds were traveling with [Jesus], and he turned and said to them, <sup>26</sup> “Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. <sup>27</sup> Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. <sup>28</sup> For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? <sup>29</sup> Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, <sup>30</sup> saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’ <sup>31</sup> Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? <sup>32</sup> If he cannot, then while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. <sup>33</sup> So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.”

The Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you, O Christ**

**MESSAGE**

**Rev. Sam Mailleue**

## HYMN OF THE DAY

*Will You Come and Follow Me* ELW #798

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### THE 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.*

We pray for the church to follow in your ways, that it may be a witness to your love for all people. Help us choose all that is life-giving and confront the forces of death.  
God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for creation, that it may be cherished and nurtured. Sustain farmlands, animals, and waters; restore places affected by calamities; and shield coastlands from rising seas.  
God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for those in authority. Grant them wisdom to govern justly and compassion to care for the marginalized. Equip them for actions that further the common good.  
God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for those who are sick, hungry, unhoused, or lonely especially those on our prayer list and in our hearts. May they find healing through your love and the care of those around them. Lead us to be your hands and feet in the world.

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

We pray for this congregation, that we may be united in love and faith. Refresh our hearts in Christ, and deepen our support of one another. We pray that our sharing of faith may transform lives.

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

We thank you for those who have died and now dwell with the saints. Surround them with your divine mercy, that they find peace and rest in your loving embrace.

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**

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### **MEAL**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

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## **WE OFFER OUR GIFTS AND TITHES**

### **OFFERTORY HYMN**

*Create In Me a Clean Heart* ELW #186

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## **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 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**

Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them.  
Come to this meal of mercy.

*Lamb of God ELW page 146*

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

O God,  
through this meal you have strengthened us  
and appointed us to be your servants.  
Send us to do good and to share our possessions  
with all in need.  
We ask this in Jesus' name.  
**Amen.**

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## **SENDING**

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

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## **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**

*God's Work, Our Hands ACS #1000  
(Vs. 3 & 4)*

**3 God's work, our voice: singing together,  
praising, proclaiming to all who will hear,  
praying for peace, shouting for justice,  
claiming God's love for the lost and the least.  
Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,  
sharing the good news of your gospel.**

**4      God is at work in and around us:  
seedlings are sprouting and bread's on the rise!  
Washed and set free, humbled and honored,  
gifted by grace, we respond in God's love.  
Bless, God, our lives as we answer your call,  
sharing the good news of your gospel.**

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954

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## **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.*





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Expires 12/25/2025

Sharefaith—Membership  
Expires 6/2026

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

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## WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

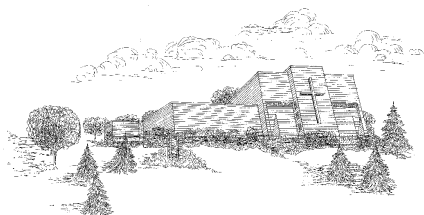
Each year, congregations across the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) join together for *God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday*—a day dedicated to serving our neighbors in love. This year, we again are excited to take part by combining local service projects with a global outreach effort through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

| Financial Update |                 |                      |
|------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Week of          | Amount Received | Budget Amount Needed |
| 8-31-25          | \$3,690         | \$4,542              |
| YTD              | \$151,855       | \$163,497            |





## Weekly Schedule

|                         |              |                                                                                    |
|-------------------------|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sunday, September 7     | <b>9:00a</b> | <b>Worship w/Holy Communion</b><br><b>God's Work, Our Hands</b>                    |
| Monday, September 8     | 10:00a       | Nursing Home Service                                                               |
| Wednesday, September 10 | 9:00a        | Staff Meeting                                                                      |
| Saturday, September 13  | 8:30-10:45a  | Sleep In Heavenly Peace Construction                                               |
| Sunday, September 14    | <b>9:00a</b> | <b>Worship</b><br><b>First Choir Recognition</b><br><b>Blessing of the Bedding</b> |
|                         | 10:15a       | First Choir Rehearsal                                                              |

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### Worship Assistants

#### September 7, 2025

|                       |                      |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Organist/Pianist:     | Virginia Miller      |
| First Choir Director: | Jennifer Weick       |
| Acolytes:             | Sophie Tews          |
| Reader:               | Edrie Barton         |
| Usher:                | Chuck Frauendienst   |
| Greeters:             | John Miller          |
| Communion Asst:       | Bonnie Keech         |
|                       | Megan Schwarz        |
| Council Member:       | Megan Schwarz        |
| Fellowship:           | Lunch following GWOH |
| Projection:           | Tech Team            |
| Audio:                | Tech Team            |
| Videographer:         | Becky Pollack        |
| Offering Counters:    | Joan May             |
|                       | Dave Johnson         |
| Altar Guild:          | Marie Walker         |

#### September 14, 2025

|                       |                    |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Organist/Pianist:     | Virginia Miller    |
| First Choir Director: | Jennifer Weick     |
| Acolytes:             | Vance Vanden Einde |
| Reader:               | Rachel Wagner      |
| Usher:                | LeRoy May          |
| Greeters:             | John Miller        |
| 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       |