

JULY 26, 2026

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



CHILDCARE Available for children 5 and under in the nursery.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church for graciously welcoming us into their space and allowing us to worship together.

TODAY'S WORSHIP

As Solomon prays for wisdom, we seek to more deeply know the treasures of faith. In today's gospel Jesus offers everyday images that reveal to us the reign of God: a tree that becomes a sheltering home, yeast that penetrates and expands, a treasured pearl, a net that gains a great catch. Even as we seek the riches of God's reign, the great surprise is that God's grace finds us first!

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Build My Life

Worship Team

WELCOMING WORDS

stand

*As the presiding minister
begins, all may make the sign
of the cross, the sign that is
marked at baptism.*

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 the name of Jesus Christ 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.



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
 4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought both by day and by night,
 thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

sit

WORD

FIRST READING

Because Solomon did not ask for long life, riches, or the defeat of his enemies, God gave him what he asked for: wisdom to govern the people well.

SECOND READING

These words celebrate the depth of God's actions for us. Through Christ's death for us and the activity of the Spirit praying for us, we are fused to God's love poured out in Jesus Christ. Nothing, not even death itself, is able to separate us from such incredible divine love.

GOSPEL

Throughout Matthew's gospel, Jesus and his disciples proclaim the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near!" Here, Jesus offers several brief parables that explore the implications of this announcement for people's lives.

FIRST READING

1 Kings 3:5-12

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

Romans 8:26-39

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

GOSPEL

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

sit

SERMON

Pr. Michael Mueller

stand

HYMN OF THE DAY

Hymn of Promise

Unison

1. In the bulb there is a flow-er; in the seed, an ap-ple tree;
 2. There's a song in ev-ery si-lence, seek-ing word and mel-o - dy;
 3. In our end is our be - gin-ning; in our time, in-fin-i - ty;

in co-coons, a hid-den prom-ise: but-ter - flies will soon be free!
 there's a dawn in ev-ery dark-ness, bring-ing hope to you and me.
 in our doubt there is be - liev-ing; in our life, e - ter - ni - ty.

In the cold and snow of win-ter there's a spring that waits to be,
 From the past will come the fu-ture; what it holds, a mys-ter - y,
 In our death, a res-ur - rec-tion; at the last, a vic-to - ry,

un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.

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.



You can give your offering by scanning the QR code above with your phone camera or place it in the offering basket by the entrance way. You can also bring it to the church office or send it by mail.

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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*We pray by petition. At the end of each petition, the leader says, "God of grace," and the assembly responds, "**hear our prayer**"*

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

We turn to one another and with a wave or nod and offer a gesture of Christ's peace. We may say these words: "Peace be with you."

MEAL

OFFERING TIME

A story of our ministry...

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 GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

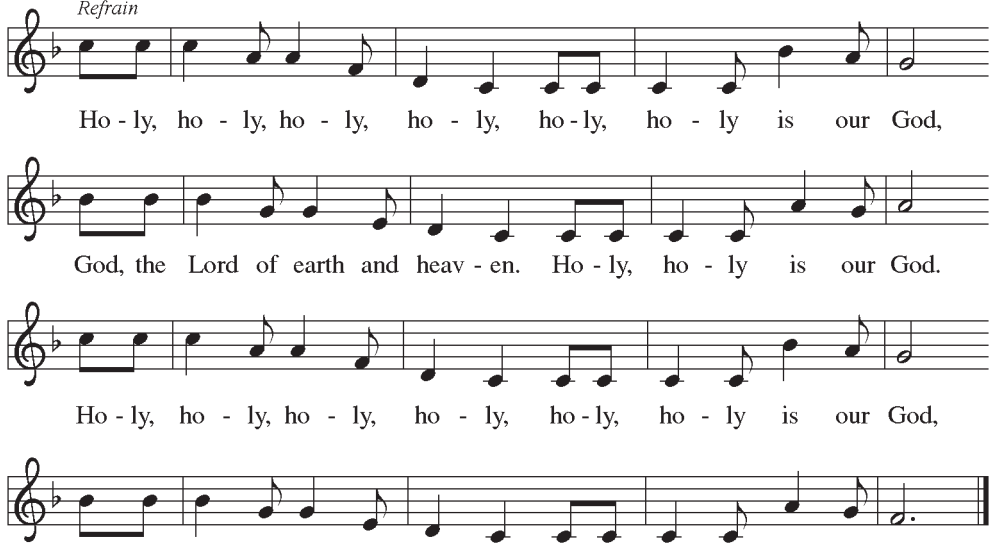
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;

who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS

Refrain



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is our God,
God, the Lord of earth and heav - en. Ho - ly, ho - ly is our God.
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is our God,
God, the Lord of all of his - t'ry. Ho - ly, ho - ly is our God.

LORD'S PRAYER

sit

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

*Communion is open to
all who wish to receive it.
Individual, sealed communion
kits available inside the
sanctuary doors, for those
who prefer them.*

*If you would like to receive
Communion at your seat,
please notify an usher.*

COMMUNION

Take My Life

Worship Team

When all have communed:

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

stand

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING

SENDING WORD

BLESSING

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer,
✠ one God,
bless, heal, and hold you
today and always.

Amen.

SENDING SONG 643

We Are All One in Christ

We are all one in Christ, we are one bod - y, all one
peo - ple out of man - y. We are all one in Christ, we are one
bod - y, all one peo - ple out of man - y.
There is one God, and on - ly one Lord; there is one
faith, one ho - ly love. There is one bap - tism; there is one
Spir - it, who is God the com - fort - er.

DISMISSAL

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

DRIVE-IN WORSHIP SUNDAY | 8AM



Embracing Love's Adventure Together

NOW - AUG 30

DRIVE IN WORSHIP

Drive-In Worship Parking: Turn off your headlights! Please park in double rows. Larger vehicles, please park along the sides or in the back. Tune your radio to 90.1 FM.

Ask a Greeter for

- A large print bulletin
- Offering Envelopes
- Connect card - To record that you have communed, or to update your address, phone, email. Or, call the office at 608.752.7434, email Jeanie at office@flcj.org, or Nan at nbandt@flcj.org

Communion: Greeters will hand out individual communion cups each Sunday.

Weather looking iffy? 8am worship will be held at Good Shepherd. A notice will be posted on the 'Closings' page at www.WCLO.com.



PRAYING FOR YOU

IN OUR THOUGHTS & PRAYERS

Hospice: Gary Kleinhans

Mercy: Marjorie Jonson

Deaths: Bruce Pearson, Dee Dee Miller

Prayers: Nathan & Heather Barlass, Damen Boehlke, Rick Cleasby, Renee Comstock, Karen Curry, Lynn Dhein, Violette Eichman, Connie Evans, Leon Freeburg, Linda Fronczak, Christine Genz, Jane Gesteland, JoAnn Haeberlin, Kathy Hendricks, Myra Jensen, Janet Klawitter, Marcia Kelleher, Robert Kjendlie, Audrey Kvistad, K. Letheby, Marion Maddock, Eli Martin, Naomi Martin, Duane Meister, Janis Metzger, Kathy Mikkelsen, Samantha Mulderick, Curt Nodolf, Shirley Pate, Susan Popp, Kevin Punzel, Debbie Rethlefsen, Elaine Schilling, Helen Strand, Linda Sturdevant, Kamron Schwartz, Jan Wathke

Nursing Home Care: Marlys Carlson, Ardith Eddy, Bill Foss, Kathy Foss, Nancy Guse, Bea Hanson, Rose Jensen, Betty Johnson, Bruce Pearson, Tilford "Paul" Paulsrud, Doris Roehl, Bill Sampson, Mary Sather

Homebound: Evelyn Dahl, George Dallman, Ray & Liz Decker, Harriet Hanson, Wayne Koste, Shirley Mooney, Lynn Reddel, Jan Sampson.

SCHOOL BAGS FOR LWR: There are school bags near the door at Good Shepherd to be picked up and filled with school supplies as specified on the note with each one. Please return to Good Shepherd by Sept 1.



SIGN UP TODAY!

4-H FAIR PARKING LOT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

This is the sign-up board we are using for the 4-H Fair Parking Lot Sign-up. It will be located in the Fellowship Hall at Good Shepard. We are looking for volunteers to help with parking during 4-H Fair Week, July 28-Aug 2. This is a fun and easy way to meet fellow members of First Lutheran Church, spend time together, and help raise money for First Lutheran. Volunteer 3-hour shifts include cashier, parking assistants, point person.

Online sign-ups: tinyurl.com/yd99nswx

Contact: Mike Drinkwater, 608.359.1626



MONDAY NIGHTS / DAWSON'S COMPLEX 920 BELOIT AVE, JANESVILLE

MEN'S SOFTBALL

Come and cheer on the First Lutheran men's softball team this summer! Contact: Eric at eengen@flcj.org.

July 27 - 7pm

Aug 3 - 8pm



AUG 3-5 / CRAIG HIGH SCHOOL VBS & DAY CAMPS

Step through the portal and enter a world of adventure, where kids explore new kingdoms, make new friends, and discover what it means to live out their faith in everyday life. Each day will be filled with a lesson, dancing, games, crafts, snacks, and unforgettable moments with their friends!

Learn More & Register: flcj.org/vbs

Contact: Renee at rengen@flcj.org



TUES, AUG 4 / 5PM

KAREN GRIMSRUD'S HOME

PAGE TURNERS BOOK CLUB

The book chosen for this month is "Gone Before Goodbye" by Harlan Gobin. All are welcome to join the group at Karen Grimsrud's home for lively conversation and fellowship whether or not you have read the book. Contact Sally Schuenke at 608.754.0407 for more information.

Sept's book is The Sweet Blue Distance by Sara Donati

WEEK OF JULY 26

WEB flcj.org | FACEBOOK @flcjvl | ON YOUTUBE
HOURS MON-THURS 8:30am-4pm | FRI 8:30am-Noon
CONTACT 608.752.7434 | office@flcj.org

SUN, JULY 26 - 9TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

8:00am	Drive-In	Parking Lot
9:00am	Coffee Hour	Parsonage
10:00am	Worship	Good Shepherd
11:00am	Coffee Hour	Good Shepherd

MON, JULY 27

7:00pm	Scout Meeting	Good Shepherd
7:00pm	Men's Softball	Dawson's Complex
8:00pm	Centering Prayer	Zoom

TUES, JULY 28 - ROCK COUNTY 4H FAIR

8:00am	BG's	FLC
9:00am	Knitters	First Senior Housing
11:00am	Staff Meeting	Parsonage

WED, JULY 29 - ROCK COUNTY 4H FAIR

5:00pm	Flood Recovery Team	Zoom
6:00pm	Worship Team	Good Shepherd

THURS, JULY 30 - ROCK COUNTY 4H FAIR

FRI, JULY 31 - ROCK COUNTY 4H FAIR

SAT, AUG 1 - ROCK COUNTY 4H FAIR



NEXT SUNDAY SCRIPTURE

AUG 2: 10TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

- + Isaiah 55:1-5
- + Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21
- + Romans 9:1-5
- + Matthew 14:13-21



STEWARDSHIP

WEEK IN REVIEW

Last Week's Giving:

\$42,923.57 *Thank You!*

Avg Weekly Giving YTD: \$23,520

Weekly Need: \$18,573

The weekly need is calculated by taking the budgeted expenses and dividing by the number of weeks in the year. This budget year, the expected expenses are part of a growth strategy based on insights from members under the direction and oversight of the Church Council. With your support, we are looking forward to the future that is growing at FLC.



ATTENDANCE

8am: 82 10am: 62

Members of Good Shepherd and visitors, you are invited to take part in any of First Lutheran's activities. Check out the calendar above and join us!

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GREETERS

8:00 Sue Johnson, Elaine Myers, Karen Kirkpatrick

ALTAR GUILD

Mary Peterson

TEMPORARY FLC OFFICES

Temporary offices are in the former parsonage at 740 N Randall Ave. Easiest access is through the rear porch door, and close parking is available there.
Hours: M-TH 8:30am-4pm, Fri. 8:30am-noon.

STAFF

The Rev. Michael Mueller SENIOR PASTOR	Aubrey McMeen MASTERPIECE COORDINATOR
The Rev. Jim Johnson VISITATION PASTOR	Michael Palmer AUDIO/VISUAL ASSISTANT
Nan Bandt OFFICE ASSISTANT	Jeanie Pomplun OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR
Kora Conrad CUSTODIAN	Mike Schuler AUDIO/VISUAL COORDINATOR
Jason Coon CUSTODIAN	Christal Swigart COMMUNICATIONS
Anne Cresswell NURSERY COORDINATOR	Dan Talbot WORSHIP COORDINATOR
Eric Engen YOUTH MINISTER	Jamie Twitchett AUDIO/VISUAL ASSISTANT
Renee Engen SUNDAY SCHOOL & CONFIRMATION	Jude Tropp FACILITIES MAINTENANCE COORDINATOR
Jessi Garvin YOUTH ASSIST & VIDEO PRODUCTION	Arwen Twitchett BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR
Amy Hartsough DIRECTOR OF MUSIC	

CHURCH COUNCIL

Jarod Wasson PRESIDENT	Carrie Chesebro
Elisa Ried VICE-PRESIDENT	Tammy Eckley
Lexi Frank TREASURER	Barb Evert
Tom Dorscheid SECRETARY	Kathy Meier
Nathan Anderson	Kurt Saterbak
Jon Bjoin	Christina Zink
Jer Carpenter	