

SEPT 27, 2026

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



CHILDCARE Available for children 5 and under in the nursery.

SUNDAY SCHOOL Meets at 9:45am. Contact Renee at rengen@flcj.org for more information. To register, print form from flcj.orgsreg.

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

Jesus' parable about two sons who don't do what they say reveals surprises in the reign of God. In the reading from Ezekiel the people claim the ways of the Lord are unfair, while God offers repentance and new life. Paul urges us to look to Christ as a model of humility, putting the interests of others above our own. Nourished by the broken bread and shared cup, we offer our lives for the sake of our needy world.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Your Love O Lord

Worship Team

Your love, oh Lord
Reaches to the heavens
Your faithfulness
Stretches to the skies
Your righteousness is
Like the mighty mountain, yeah
Your justice flows like the ocean's tides

I will lift my voice
To worship You, my King
I will find my strength
In the shadow of Your wings

WELCOMING WORDS

stand

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
who pours love into our hearts
and healing upon the earth.

Amen.

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith,
let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,

**we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness
in the world and in our own hearts.**

Creation groans from overuse.

Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships.

Indifference keeps us from seeking justice.

Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others.

Turn our hearts back to you.

Restore our world and reconcile us to one another.

**Renew us to live as your holy people,
following the way of Jesus Christ.**

Amen.

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

Hear this good news:

We have peace with God through ✠ Jesus Christ,
in whom there is no condemnation,
but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life.
Receive freely this healing gift of grace.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

I Just Wanna Be A Sheep

I just wanna be a sheep
Baa-baa-baa
I just wanna be a sheep
Baa-baa-baa
I pray the Lord my soul to keep
I just wanna be a sheep
Baa-baa-baa

Don't wanna be a hypocrite
Don't wanna be a hypocrite
'Cause they're not hip to it
Don't wanna be a hypocrite

Don't wanna be a Pharisee
Don't wanna be a Pharisee
'Cause they're not fair, you see
Don't wanna be a Pharisee

Don't wanna be a Sadducee
Don't wanna be a Sadducee
'Cause they're so sad you see
Don't wanna be a Sadducee

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

God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

sit

WORD

FIRST READING

Ezekiel challenges those who think they cannot change because of what their parents were and did, or who think they cannot reverse their own previous behavior. God insistently invites people to turn and live.

SECOND READING

As part of a call for harmony rather than self-seeking, Paul uses a very early Christian hymn that extols the selflessness of Christ in his obedient death on the cross. Christ's selfless perspective is to be the essential perspective we share as the foundation for Christian accord.

GOSPEL

After driving the moneychangers out of the temple (21:12), Jesus begins teaching there. His authority is questioned by the religious leaders, who are supposed to be in charge of the temple.

FIRST READING

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

Philippians 2:1-13

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION 172



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

GOSPEL

Matthew 21:23-32

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

You are my King (Amazing Love)

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken
I'm accepted, You were condemned
And I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
Because You died and rose again

Amazing love, how can it be
That You, my King, should die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true
And it's my joy to honor You
In all I do, to honor You

You are my King
You are my King
Jesus, You are my King
You are my King

In all I do, let me honor You

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.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*We pray by petition. At the end of each petition, the leader says,
"Hear us, O God." and the assembly responds, "Your mercy is great."*



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.

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

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

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.

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, for you keep calling, inviting us into your mercy, until we embrace the life we had longed for without knowing.

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.

*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.*

LORD'S PRAYER

sit

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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

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, as we follow the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.

Amen.

SENDING

SENDING WORD

BLESSING

The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind,
in the body of Christ Jesus.

The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances
through the interceding of the Spirit.

The God of grace ✠ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING SONG

They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love



1. We are one in the Spir - it, we are one in the Lord; We are
2. We will walk with each oth - er, we will walk hand in hand; We will
3. We will work with each oth - er, we will work side by side; We will
4. All praise to the Fa - ther, from whom all things come; And all



one in the Spir - it, we are one in the Lord. And we pray that all
walk with each oth - er, we will walk hand in hand. And to - geth - er we'll
work with each oth - er, we will work side by side. And we'll guard each man's
praise to Christ Je - sus, His on - ly Son. And all praise to the



u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored. And they'll know we are Chris - tians by our
spread the news that God is in our land.
dig - ni - ty and save each man's pride.
Spir - it, who makes us one.



love, by our love, yes they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love.

DISMISSAL

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE 677

This Little Light of Mine

This little light of mine,
I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine,
I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine,
I'm gonna let it shine.
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Jesus gave it to me,
I'm gonna let it shine.
Jesus gave it to me,
I'm gonna let it shine.
Jesus gave it to me,
I'm gonna let it shine.
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Ev'rywhere I go,
I'm gonna let it shine.
Ev'rywhere I go,
I'm gonna let it shine.
Ev'rywhere I go,
I'm gonna let it shine,
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.



PRAYING FOR YOU

IN OUR THOUGHTS & PRAYERS

Hospice: Gary Kleinhans

Death: Betty Johnson

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, Anita Kropf, Audrey Kvistad, K. Letheby, Marion Maddock, Eli Martin, Naomi Martin, Janis Metzger, Kathy Mikkelsen, Samantha Mulderick, Curt Nodolf, Rick Olson, Shirley Pate, Susan Popp, Kevin Punzel, Debbie Rethlefsen, Elaine Schilling, Earl Schultz, 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, Tilford "Paul" Paulsrud, Doris Roehl, Jan Sampson, Mary Sather
Homebound: Evelyn Dahl, George Dallman, Ray & Liz Decker, Harriet Hanson, Wayne Koste, Shirley Mooney, Lynn Reddel



THURS, OCT 1-NOV 19 / 9-10AM OR 6:30-8PM

ADULT CLASSES AT FIRST

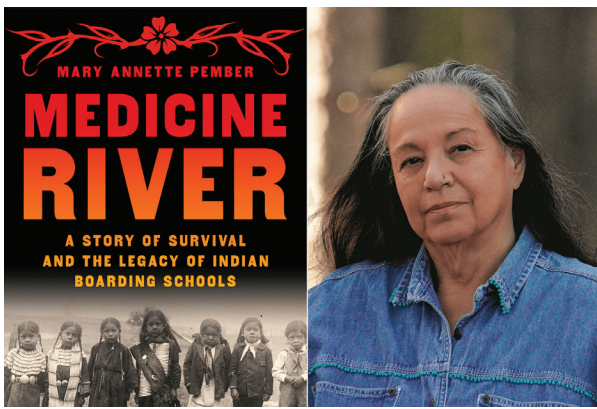
Looking for ways to grow in faith and connect with others? Join us for Membership 201 (Oct 17, 9am-Noon) and Practicing the Way (Oct 1-Nov 19) this fall! Whether you're new to First Lutheran, exploring faith, or have been part of our congregation for years, there's a place for you. Learn, connect, and grow together. Sign up today at flcj.org/members



SAT, OCT 3 / 6AM-6PM / GOOD SHEPHERD PRAYER VIGIL

On Saturday, Oct 3, 6am-6pm, members of First Lutheran and Good Shepherd are invited to be part of a Prayer Vigil held in the Good Shepherd sanctuary. You are invited to sign up for a half-hour shift, but you can stay as long as you wish. A focus for prayer at this year's vigil will be seeking God's direction as decisions are made for the future of both congregations. A sign-up poster will be in the fellowship area at Good Shepherd. If you would like to help, please contact Ruth Demmon 608.302.7893 or Cordy Madorin 608.201.7541.

JELLY JARS: We are looking for donations of half pint jars for jelly making. Bring to Good Shepherd or FLC's office during the week. Thanks!



TUES, OCT 6 / 5PM
KAREN GRIMSRUD'S HOME

PAGE TURNERS BOOK CLUB

The book chosen for this month is *Medicine River* by Mary Annette Pembe. 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.

November's book is *Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine* by Eleanor Oliphant



SAVE THE DATE: OCT 9-10

THE OK FACTOR & JAERV

First Lutheran is excited to welcome back The OK Factor and Jaerv to First Presbyterian (17 N Jackson St), Janesville, on Friday AND Saturday, Oct 9 & 10!

Fri, Oct 9: Workshops 4:30-5:30pm

Sat, Oct 10: Workshops 1:30-3:30pm

Sat Concert: 4pm (doors open at 3:30pm)

This amazing string duo from Minneapolis, alongside the dynamic Swedish folk group Jaerv, will be hosting a workshop for all ages of string players, guitarists, dulcimers, AND vocalists, on Friday evening and Saturday morning/afternoon. Following the workshops, there will be an afternoon performance by everyone, including the workshop participants. The performance is free and open to all!



SUN, OCT 11 / 11AM-3PM

FLC MAIN STREET MARKET

Donations are coming in! Help is needed to sort donations on Thurs, Oct 8 at 1pm, and to work in the Jewelry, Craft, and Toy Shops on Oct. 11. We continue to accept shop donations during office hours. Place them in the cart at the church's main entrance. If weather is bad and the cart is inside, call the office. We are accepting baked goods from 9am-Noon on Fri, Oct 9. Call the office to make alternate arrangements. We would like to borrow Easy-Ups to cover the shops - need by Sat, Oct 10.

Contact: Jeanie at 608.752.7434 x10.



SAT, OCT 31 / 5:30-7PM / FLC PARKING LOT TRUNK OR TREAT

Join us Saturday, Oct 31, from 5:30-7pm in the First Lutheran parking lot for a fun, family-friendly Halloween celebration! Come in costume, enjoy treats, decorated trunks, and fellowship. Volunteers are needed to decorate trunks, hand out treats, and help with the event. Contact Eric or sign up in the church office.

WEEK OF SEPT 27

WEB flcj.org | FACEBOOK @flcjvl | ON YOUTUBE
HOURS MON-THURS 9am-4pm | FRI 9am-Noon
CONTACT 608.752.7434 | office@flcj.org

SUN, SEPT 27 - 18TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

10:00am	Worship	FLC Greenspace
11:00am	Potluck	FLC Greenspace
12:00pm	Games	FLC Greenspace
4:00pm	Scout Meeting	Good Shepherd

MON, SEPT 28

8:00pm	Centering Prayer	Zoom
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TUES, SEPT 29

8:00am	BG's	Parsonage
9:00	Knitters	First Senior Housing
11:00am	Staff Meeting	Parsonage
4:30pm	Handbells	First Presbyterian
5:30pm	Masterpiece	Good Shepherd
6:30pm	Congregational Mtg	Good Shepherd

WED, SEPT 30

8:30am	Mission Sew	First Senior Housing
10:00am	Bible Study	Good Shepherd
6:00pm	Worship Team	Good Shepherd
7:00pm	Youth Group	Parsonage Living Room

THURS, OCT 1

9:00am	Practicing the Way	Good Shepherd
3:00pm	Communication Team	Zoom
6:30pm	Practicing the Way	Good Shepherd

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS

October 4 finds us back inside for both services and gives us a chance to catch up with our friends at coffee hour. The sign-up sheet is in the fellowship room on the table along the windows. Hosts are needed for coffee hour between services, from 9am-9:45am, to set up, serve, and cover remaining treats for after 10am service. Hosts for 11am will serve & do final clean-up. Of course, everyone is invited at either time! First Lutheran members will be given a chance to familiarize themselves with Good Shepherd's serving area.



NEXT SUNDAY SCRIPTURE

OCT 4: 19TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

- + Isaiah 5:1-7
- + Psalm 80:7-15
- + Philippians 3:4b-14
- + Matthew 21:33-46



STEWARDSHIP

WEEK IN REVIEW

Last Week's Giving:
\$13,486.78 *Thank You!*
Avg Weekly Giving YTD: \$15,862
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: 44 10am: 82 SS: 19

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WEB flcj.org
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ON YOUTUBE
HOURS
Mon-Thurs 9am-4pm
Fri 9am-Noon
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GREETERS

10:00 David & Susan Cress, Hans & Jill von Allmen, Jim & Karla Vriezen

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: Mon-Thurs 9am-4pm, Fri 9am-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	