

OCT 18, 2026

TWENTY-FIRST 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

In today's first reading God uses the Gentile ruler Cyrus to accomplish divine purposes. When the Pharisees try to trap Jesus, he tells them to give the emperor what belongs to him and to God what belongs to God. To gather for worship reminds us that our ultimate allegiance is to God rather than to any earthly authority. Created in the image of God, we offer our entire selves in the service of God and for the sake of the world.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

What A Beautiful Name

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,
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.

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 757

All My Hope on God is Founded

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

Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

sit

WORD

FIRST READING

The prophet announces that Cyrus the Persian emperor is the one the Lord has anointed to end Israel's exile. The Lord makes this choice so that the whole world will recognize this Lord as the only God. Persia had a god of light and a god of darkness; the Lord claims sovereignty over both light and darkness.

SECOND READING

Most likely this letter is the first written by Paul. Paul gives pastoral encouragement and reassurances to new Christians living in an antagonistic environment. Their commitment of faith, love, and hope makes them a model for other new Christian communities.

GOSPEL

After Jesus begins teaching in the temple, religious leaders try to trap him with questions. First they ask if God's people should pay taxes to an earthly tyrant like Caesar.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 45:1-7

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION 172



GOSPEL

Matthew 22:15-22

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

sit

SERMON

Pr. Jim Johnson

stand

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."*

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.



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.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

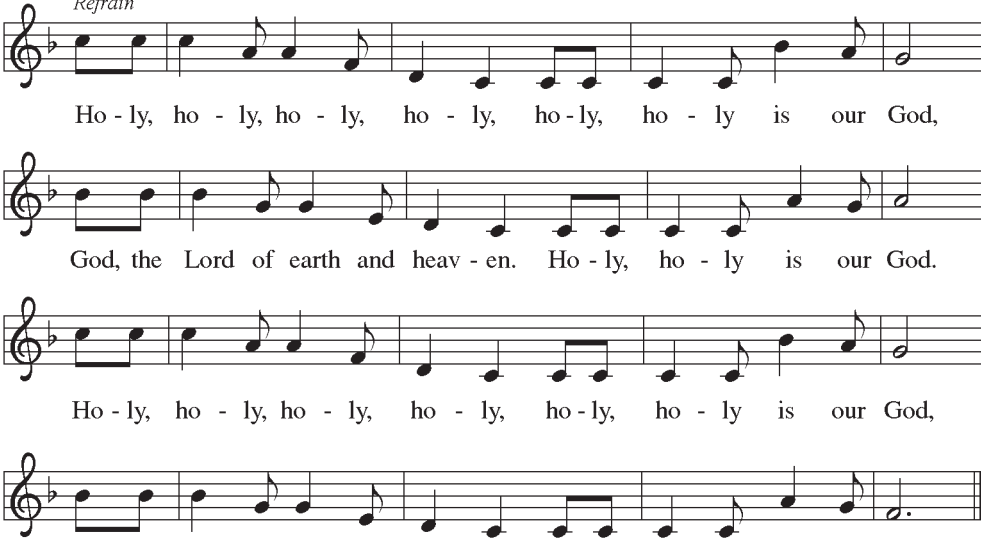
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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.

LORD'S PRAYER

sit

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

COMMUNION

In Jesus Name (God of Possible)

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

*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.*

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 538

The Lord Now Sends Us Forth

DISMISSAL

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

NEW SCHEDULING FOR WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

I (Nan) and Good Shepherd (GSL) members Mike Hornby & Karen Schumacher are trying a new approach to schedule worship participants (greeters, lay readers & communion servers).

8am Service – I will schedule Worship Participants from the First Lutheran (FLC) congregation.

10am Service - Worship Participants scheduled from FLC in the even-numbered months.

- Karen S. will schedule lay readers & communion servers from GSL for the odd-numbered months. Please answer if she calls!

- Any GSL member welcomed to greet any Sunday!
- If GSL holds a separate service from FLC, like on Dec. 20 and Christmas Eve 2026 when FLC will be at First Presbyterian (for space reasons), we'll each schedule for our own service.

Having a schedule will make it easier for us to fill any gaps at the 10am service ahead of time. Who can greet, read or serve? Any older youth or adult. You! Contact me at nbandt@flcj.org or 608.752.7434 x15.



PRAYING FOR YOU

IN OUR THOUGHTS & PRAYERS

Hospice: Gary Kleinhans

Froedtert Hospital: Sally Schuenke

Prayers: Pr. David Andert, Nathan & Heather Barlass, Enid Branham, 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, Dale McCormack, 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, Ray & Liz Decker, Harriet Hanson, Wayne Koste, Shirley Mooney, Lynn Reddel



SIGN UP TODAY!

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS

Lutherans (n.) – Lovers of chatting with friends over coffee and treats. Would you & a couple friends like to fuel that love one Sunday? Set out 10-12 doz. treats, sweet or savory. Brew a couple extra pots of coffee after the first 4 are gone. Clean up as you go. Questions? Contact FLC office, x10. Sign up on the clipboard.



TODAY / BETWEEN SERVICES

PASTOR / MINISTER APPRECIATION

Join us in honoring Pastor Michael, Pastor Jim, Pastor David, and Eric Engen! Enjoy special treats during coffee time, a potluck after the second service, and cards of appreciation from the congregation.



RETURN TODAY!

CARE PACKAGES FOR GRADS

Our recent graduates are off at school, work, internships, or military service. Let them know First Lutheran is thinking of them! Pick up a graduate's name and box at Good Shepherd and fill it with snacks, treats, gift cards, practical items, and an encouraging note. Plan to spend \$20–25. Return your filled box by October 18, and the Youth & Family Team will send it on its way. Thank you for supporting our young people! Contact Renee with questions.



**SUN, OCT 18, NOV 15 / 3-4:30PM
PARSONAGE LIVING ROOM**

FALL BOOK STUDY

Join FLC's Inclusion and Integration Team this fall for a three-part book study of *See No Stranger* by Valarie Kaur. Together, we'll explore what genuine inclusion means and consider Kaur's invitation to see one another—even our opponents—with wonder, compassion, and a commitment to belonging. We hope you'll join us! For more information and links to purchase the book, visit valariekaur.com.



TODAY / 5:30-7PM / GOOD SHEPHERD

FIRST COMMUNION CLASS

Children and parents/sponsors are invited to Communion Class on today, from 5:30-7pm at Good Shepherd. The class is open to children preparing for First Communion or already participating in Holy Communion. A pre-reader class is available by request. Contact: Renee at rengen@flcj.org



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 OCT 18

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

SUN, OCT 18 - 21ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

8:00am	Worship	Good Shepherd
9:00am	Coffee Hour	Good Shepherd
9:45am	Sunday School	Good Shepherd
10:00am	Worship	Good Shepherd
11:00am	Potluck	Good Shepherd
4:00pm	Scout Meeting	Good Shepherd

MON, OCT 19

8:00pm	Centering Prayer	Zoom
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TUES, OCT 20

8:00am	BG's	Parsonage
9:00am	Knitters	First Senior Housing
11:00am	Staff Meeting	Parsonage
4:30pm	Handbells	First Presbyterian
6:30pm	Church Council	Parsonage

WED, OCT 21

8:30am	Mission Sew	First Senior Housing
10:00am	Bible Study	Good Shepherd
5:00pm	Disaster Recovery	Zoom
6:00pm	Worship Team	Good Shepherd
7:00pm	Youth Group	Parsonage Living Room

THURS, OCT 22

9:00am	Practicing the Way	Good Shepherd
6:30pm	Practicing the Way	Good Shepherd
6:30pm	Young Adult Group	Good Shepherd

SAT, OCT 24

8:00am	Leadership Meeting	Good Shepherd
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NEXT SUNDAY SCRIPTURE

OCT 25: 22ND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

+ Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18

+ Psalm 1

+ 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

+ Matthew 22:34-46



STEWARDSHIP

WEEK IN REVIEW

Last Week's Giving:

\$7,045.27 *Thank You!*

Avg Weekly Giving YTD: \$15,008

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: 52

10am: 85

SS: 28

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an online Connect Card.*

WEB flcj.org
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GREETERS

8:00 Mat & Peg Haeger
10:00 Jerry & Linda Nedland

READERS

8:00 Peg Haeger
10:00 Barb Clem

COMMUNION SERVERS

8:00 Bob & Kathy Richards, Peg Haeger

USHERS

10:00 Dennis Garvin

ALTAR GUILD

Ann Thomas, Sandy Perry, Magda Nelson

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	