

**BEHOLD,
I AM SETTING
A PLUMB LINE
IN THE MIDST
OF MY PEOPLE,
*Israel.***



AMOS 7:8

**July 14, 2024
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
9:30 AM Worship**

First Lutheran Church
709 5th Ave. – P.O. Box 218
Washburn, North Dakota 58577
www.flcwashburn.com
701-462-3775

PRELUDE AND BELLS

AS WE GATHER

(When humanity becomes complacent to God's ways, evil will triumph. Today's Bible readings clearly illustrate that truth. Yet, how good it is to have a Savior who is able to lift us out of the darkest evil and give us life. Welcome to God's house today!)

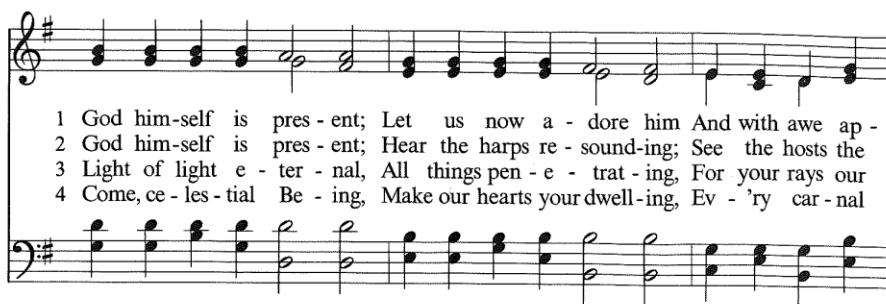
WELCOME

(put prayer requests on yellow cards)

HYMN LBW #249
“God Himself Is Present”

God Himself Is Present

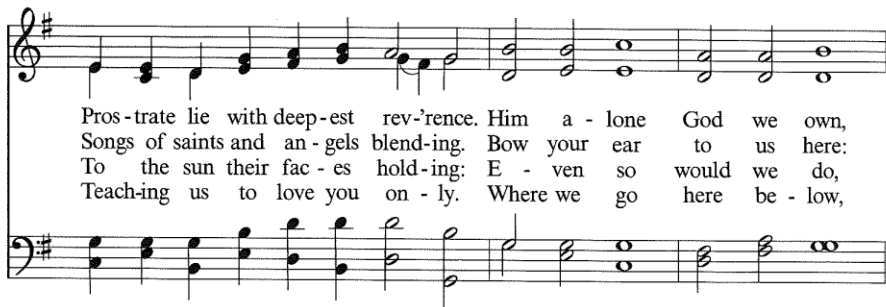
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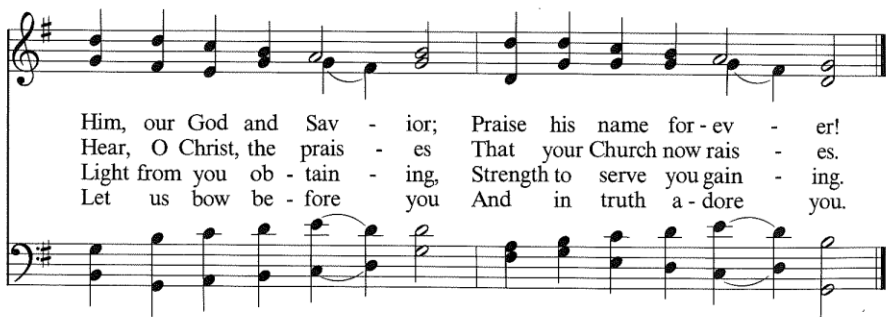
1 God him-self is pres-ent; Let us now a-dore him And with awe ap-
 2 God him-self is pres-ent; Hear the harps re-sound-ing; See the hosts the
 3 Light of light e-ter-nal, All things pen-e-trat-ing, For your rays our
 4 Come, ce-les-tial Be-ing, Make our hearts your dwell-ing, Ev-'ry car-nal



pear be-fore him! God is in his tem-ple; All with-in keep si-lence,
 throne sur-round-ing! "Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly!" Hear the hymn as-cend-ing,
 soul is wait-ing. As the ten-der flow-ers, Will-ing-ly un-fold-ing,
 thought dis-pel-ling. By your Ho-ly Spir-it Sanc-ti-fy us tru-ly,



Pros-trate lie with deep-est rev-'rence. Him a-lone God we own,
 Songs of saints and an-gels blend-ing. Bow your ear to us here:
 To the sun their fac-es hold-ing: E-ven so would we do,
 Teach-ing us to love you on-ly. Where we go here be-low,



Him, our God and Sav-ior; Praise his name for-ev-er!
 Hear, O Christ, the prais-es That your Church now gain-es.
 Light from you ob-tain-ing, Strength to serve you gain-ing.
 Let us bow be-fore you And in truth a-dore you.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESSp. 56

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P: Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name. Amen

P: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

KYRIEp. 57

A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **G** Lord, have mer - cy.

A For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

G Lord, have mer - cy.

A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,

and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

G Lord, have mer - cy.

A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. **G** Lord, have mer - cy.

A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **G** A - men

☐ This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,

al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. ☐ Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was

slain, whose blood set us free to be peo-ple of God.

☐ This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,

al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. ☐ Pow-er, rich-es, wis-dom, and

strength, and hon-or, bless-ing, and glo-ry are his.

☐ This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,

al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. ☐ Sing with all the peo-ple of God, and

join in the hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing, hon-or, glo-ry, and

might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.

☩ This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,
 al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. ☩ For the Lamb who was
 slain has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia.
 ☩ This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.
 Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

SALUTATION

☩ The Lord be with you. ☩ And al-so with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Let us pray.

C: Holy God, you are the author and giver of all good gifts. Increase in us the true faith, give us a love and fear of your holy name, and by your great mercy sustain us in goodness and holiness all our days; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READINGAmos 7:7-15
(Israel's evil ways bring forth God's anger and Amos pleads for his people's salvation.)

⁷This is what {the Lord God } showed me: behold, the Lord was standing beside a wall built with a plumb line, with a plumb line in his hand. ⁸And the Lord said to me, "Amos, what do you see?" And I said, "A plumb line." Then the Lord said, "Behold, I am setting a plumb line in the midst of my people Israel; I will

never again pass by them; ⁹the high places of Isaac shall be made desolate, and the sanctuaries of Israel shall be laid waste, and I will rise against the house of Jeroboam with the sword.” ¹⁰Then Amaziah the priest of Bethel sent to Jeroboam king of Israel, saying, “Amos has conspired against you in the midst of the house of Israel. The land is not able to bear all his words. ¹¹For thus Amos has said, ‘Jeroboam shall die by the sword, and Israel must go into exile away from his land.’” ¹²And Amaziah said to Amos, “O seer, go, flee away to the land of Judah, and eat bread there, and prophesy there, ¹³but never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king’s sanctuary, and it is a temple of the kingdom.” ¹⁴Then Amos answered and said to Amaziah, “I was no prophet, nor a prophet’s son, but I was a herdsman and a dresser of sycamore figs. ¹⁵But the Lord took me from following the flock, and the Lord said to me, ‘Go, prophesy to my people Israel.’”

PSALM (Read responsively)Psalm 85:1-13
(The psalmist cries for his people to be restored to God’s good favor. “Don’t be angry with us forever,” he cries.)

¹Lord, you were favorable to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

²You forgave the iniquity of your people; you covered all their sin.

³You withdrew all your wrath; you turned from your hot anger.

⁴Restore us again, O God of our salvation, and put away your indignation toward us!

⁵Will you be angry with us forever? Will you prolong your anger to all generations?

⁶Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you?

⁷Show us your steadfast love, O Lord, and grant us your salvation.

⁸Let me hear what God the Lord will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints; but let them not turn back to folly.

⁹Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him, that glory may dwell in our land.

¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness meet; righteousness and peace kiss each other.

¹¹Faithfulness springs up from the ground, and righteousness looks down from the sky.

¹²Yes, the Lord will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.

¹³Righteousness will go before him and make his footsteps a way.

SECOND READING Ephesians 1:3-14
(Through Jesus Christ, God grants us every spiritual blessing, including redemption, forgiveness of sin, grace, and the knowledge of his holy will.)

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, ⁸which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight ⁹making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, ¹²so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. ¹³In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

ALLELUIA

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 6th chapter.

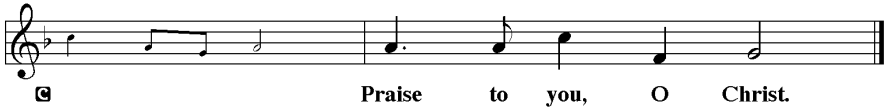
Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL READINGMark 6:14-29
(Sudden evil is on display when King Herod deals with John the Baptist. Sudden evil finds its way into our lives as well. Yet, the darkest evil is not beyond our Savior's light.)

¹⁴King Herod heard of {Jesus' works}, for Jesus' name had become known. Some said, "John the Baptist has been raised from the dead. That is why these miraculous powers are at work in him." ¹⁵But others said, "He is Elijah." And others said, "He is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old." ¹⁶But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised." ¹⁷For it was Herod who had sent and seized John and bound him in prison for the sake of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because he had married her. ¹⁸For John had been saying to Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." ¹⁹And Herodias had a grudge against him and wanted to put him to death. But she could not, ²⁰for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he kept him safe. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed, and yet he heard him gladly. ²¹But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his nobles and military commanders and the leading men of Galilee. ²²For when Herodias's daughter came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests. And the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it to you." ²³And he vowed to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, up to half of my

kingdom.” ²⁴And she went out and said to her mother, “For what should I ask?” And she said, “The head of John the Baptist.” ²⁵And she came in immediately with haste to the king and asked, saying, “I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter.” ²⁶And the king was exceedingly sorry, but because of his oaths and his guests he did not want to break his word to her. ²⁷And immediately the king sent an executioner with orders to bring John’s head. He went and beheaded him in the prison ²⁸and brought his head on a platter and gave it to the girl, and the girl gave it to her mother. ²⁹When his disciples heard of it, they came and took his body and laid it in a tomb.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.



SERMON Pastor Paul Krueger
 “When You Suddenly Face the Unexpected” – Mark 6:14-29

APOSTLES’ CREEDp. 65
I believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

HYMN LBW #346
“When Peace, like a River”

When Peace, like a River

1 When peace, like a riv - er, at - tend - eth my way;
 2 Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come,
 3 He lives— oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought;
 4 And, Lord, haste the day when our faith shall be sight,

When sor - rows, like sea bil - lows, roll; What -
 Let this blest as - sur - ance con - trol, That
 My sin, not in part, but the whole, Is
 The clouds be rolled back as a scroll, The

ev - er my lot, thou hast taught me to say,
 Christ hath re - gard - ed my help - less es - tate
 nailed to his cross, and I bear it no more.
 trum - pet shall sound, and the Lord shall de - scend;

It is well, it is well with my soul.
 And hath shed his own blood for my soul.
 Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
 E - ven so it is well with my soul.

OFFERINGS ARE RECEIVED

OFFERTORY



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the
prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: Merciful Father,

C: we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

THE CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

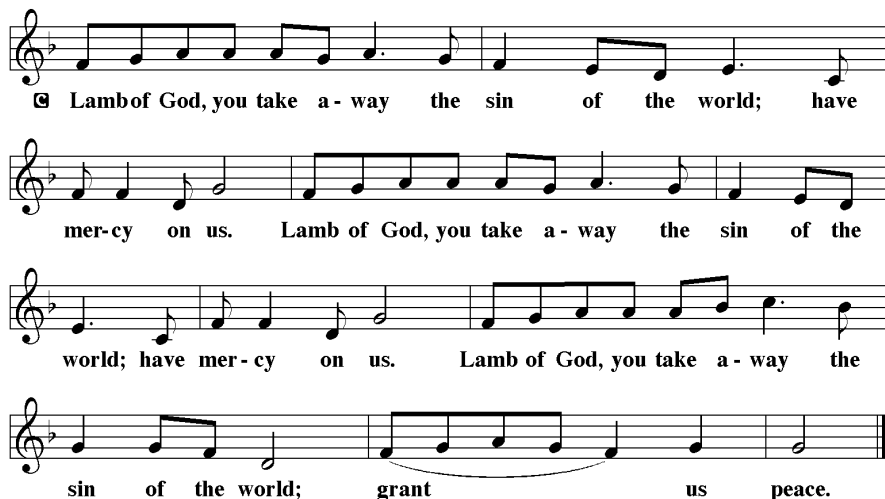
Do this for the remembrance of me.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

(2 Aisle Floor Stations)

HYMNS DURING COMMUNION:

Lamb of God – p. 72



☐ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

LBW #439 – “What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

LBW #333 – “Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me”

439

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, All our sins and griefs to bear!
 2 Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?
 3 Are we weak and heav - y - lad - en, Cum - bered with a load of care?

What a priv - i - lege to car - ry Ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!
 We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged— Take it to the Lord in prayer.
 Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge— Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit; Oh, what need - less pain we bear—
 Can we find a friend so faith - ful Who will all our sor - rows share?
 Do your friends de - spise, for - sake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.

All be - cause we do not car - ry Ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!
 Je - sus knows our ev - 'ry weak - ness— Take it to the Lord in prayer.
 In his arms he'll take and shield you; You will find a so - lace there.

333

Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me

1 Lord, take my hand and lead me Up - on life's way;
 2 Lord, when the tem - pest ra - ges, I need not fear;
 3 Lord, when the shad - ows length - en And night has come,

Di - rect, pro - tect, and feed me From day to day.
 For you, the Rock of A - ges, Are al - ways near.
 I know that you will strength - en My steps toward home,

With-out your grace and fa - vor I go a - stray;
 Close by your side a - bid - ing, I fear no foe,
 And noth - ing can im - pede me, O bless - ed Friend!

So take my hand, O Sav - ior, And lead the way.
 For when your hand is guid - ing, In peace I go.
 So, take my hand and lead me Un - to the end.

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

C: Amen

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE



PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven; hallowed be thy name, Thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen

BENEDICTION

Psalm 32:10

L: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace

Numbers 6:24-26

In the name of the Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

“Sent Forth by God’s Blessing”

HOLY COMMUNION

221

Sent Forth by God’s Blessing

1 Sent forth by God’s bless - ing, Our true faith con - fess - ing, The
 2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing To God ev - er - liv - ing, The

peo - ple of God from his dwell - ing take leave.
 tasks of our ev - 'ry - day life we will face.

The sup - per is end - ed. Oh, now be ex - tend - ed The
 Our faith ev - er shar - ing, In love ev - er car - ing, Em -

fruits of this ser - vice in all who be - lieve. The
 brac - ing his chil - dren of each tribe and race. With

seed of his teach - ing, Re - cep - tive souls reach - ing, Shall
your feast you feed us, With your light now lead us; U -

blos - som in ac - tion for God and for all. His
nite us as one in this life that we share. Then

grace did in - vite us, His love shall u - nite us To
may all the liv - ing With praise and thanks - giv - ing Give

work for God's king - dom and an - swer his call.
hon - or to Christ and his name that we bear.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

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Today's Worship Leaders & Volunteers – Thank You!

PASTOR Pastor Paul Krueger

USHERS/GREETERS Dick & Carla Bickert

READER Sarah Rosenquist

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS Sarah Rosenquist

Kathy Farstad, Linda Zeller

ORGANIST Theresa Petersen

VIRTUAL SERVICE DJ Winter

ALTAR GUILD.....Julene Klosterman & Maybell Job

FELLOWSHIP/COFFEE HOUR Dick & Carla Bickert

SERVICE GROUP COORDINATORS Dick & Carla Bickert

Evangelism Committee

First Lutheran Church
709 5th Ave. - PO BOX 218
Washburn ND 58577
701-462-3775

PASTOR: Paul Krueger email: revpaulkrueger@gmail.com

Cell phone: 701-240-4712

ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY: Jeannette Rost

Church Office: 701-462-3775

Email: flc@westriv.com

Website: www.flcwashburn.com

COORDINATOR OF STUDENT MINISTRIES: Melissa Rothe

Email: fly@westriv.com

OFFICE HOURS: T-T-F 9:00 am - 12:30 pm, 1:30 - 3:30

W – 9:00 am - 12:30 pm

ORGANISTS: Theresa Petersen and LeAnn Richard

CHOIR DIRECTOR: Randy Hall

BELL CHOIR DIRECTOR: Gwen Hall

CUSTODIAN: Jeff Schmidt

Our Mission

“Working hand in hand to know Christ and make Christ known through Worship, Christian Education, Evangelism, Fellowship, Caring Ministries, and Service.”

Welcome to all who have come to worship.

Welcome to worship. “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ ... according to the riches of his grace” (Ephesians 1:3, 7, NRSV). Amen.

Visitors

We welcome all visitors to First Lutheran today and ask that you sign our guest book in the narthex.

Nursery

The nursery, located beside the narthex, is available for use for any parent feeling the need to use it during worship services with their child.

Thank you for your giving

Sunday, July 7th

Attendance – 94

Online Viewing – 35

General Fund & Plate Giving - \$7,410.00

Altar Flowers

Altar flowers today are from Larry & Kathy Keller in honor of their 33rd anniversary which is this coming Saturday.

Hearing Assist

First Lutheran has hearing assist systems to be used during the worship services. If you feel you could benefit from this or want to try it, please see the ushers in the narthex.

Holy Communion

All are welcome to receive the Lord's Body and Blood who are baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and believe that Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, is truly present in, with and under the forms of bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation. Receive the bread into your open, flat palm. Ask if you wish to receive grape juice or a gluten free wafer. Alert an usher if you, or someone you know, needs communion served in the pew.

Pastoral Care

Please call Pastor Paul (701-240-4712) or the church office (701-462-3775) if you or a loved one are in the hospital or know you will be going to the hospital. The church does not get informed of your stay by any of the hospitals even if you are registered under our congregation's name. We want to make sure you get pastoral care. Thank you!

This week we pray for:

This Week's New Prayer Requests:

Prayers of Christian Sympathy:

Long Term prayer requests:

Members: Alton Krebsbach, Howard Johnson, Karen Goehring

* The person in parenthesis is who the person is related to or friends of. Please feel free to ask these individuals how best you can pray for their family/friend.

This month we pray for:

Members:

Friends & Family: Clara Olson (Sharon Chrest)

This Quarter we pray for:

Members and Nonmembers: Corrine Kerzmann (Donna Gunderson), Marion Narum (Peggy Moran), Ty Brown (Jody & Nicole Brown), Alice Richard, Jackie Olson

Military Prayer and Card List

We pray for the Men & Women in our Military who protect our country, especially those assigned to serve overseas or away from home.

- **Members of First Lutheran on Active Duty in the Military and the National Guard:**
SGT Bryce Rost – Army National Guard
SPC Olivia Retterath – National Guard - Deployed
SPC Cassidy Sommer – National Guard
SGT Jonathan Melvard – Army National Guard

- **Friends and Family on Active Duty in the Military and in the National Guard:**
SGT Dustin Enockson – National Guard
Emily Johnson – Air Force
Bryar Anderson – Marines
1SGT Jordan Ternes – Army National Guard
Tech. SGT Andre Austin – Air Force
Hunter Feigum – National Guard
Morris Duffy – Medical Air Guard
Adam Walsvik – National Guard

Notice of Prayer List Policy

We have a monthly /quarterly prayer list cycle. When you add someone to our prayer list the request will remain on our monthly list for four weeks and then be removed. If you would like to have the request moved to our quarterly list, please contact the office and the request will be added to our “This Quarter we pray for:” list for the next three months. Please help us keep our prayer list current by communicating updates to the office at 701-462-3775. Thank you all for your faithful prayers for all of God’s people.

Large Print Bulletins

We have large print bulletins for those wanting or needing larger print. Ask the ushers for one.

Bowls and Pans

There are a lot of bowls and pans in the kitchen from food brought for funerals, etc. Please stop and check to see if any belong to you and take them home.

Office Hours

Jeannette will be in the office this week Monday through Thursday. She will be out of the office on Friday and back on Tuesday, July 23rd.

Annual Church Picnic

Mark your calendars to join us this Wednesday, July 17th, at 5:30 pm for our Annual Church Picnic prepared by our church council. They will be serving pulled pork, hot dogs, salads, bars, floats, lemonade, coffee and good fellowship! A free-will offering will be taken.

Deborah Bible Study

Deborah Bible Study will meet this Thursday, July 18th, at 9:30 am at the church. It will be a potluck. Study is Tender Warrior – Lesson 6.

Lewis & Clark Riverboat Cruise

FLCW will be going on the Lewis & Clark Riverboat Cruise on Sunday, July 21st. Meet at the church at 2:30 pm. The cruise is at 4:00 pm. If you are willing to drive, please talk to Donna Gunderson or LeAnn Richard. Cost is \$24 for the Riverboat ticket plus your meal. Dinner at Mayas (formerly Johnny Carino's) after the cruise. Bring a friend and enjoy God's beautiful creation as we ride the Lewis & Clark Riverboat on the Missouri River in Bismarck. A signup sheet is on the table in the narthex.

Vacation Bible School

First Lutheran Church Vacation Bible School, "The Great Jungle Journey, An Epic Cruise from Genesis to Revelation", is July 30, 31 and August 1 from 10:00 am – 5:00 pm. Lunch will be provided. Please scan the QR code below to register your child(ren) to guarantee souvenirs! If you have additional questions or comments, please call or text Kellie Sheldon at 701-840-8454 or Kacy Hardt at 701-351-0742. **Last day to sign up to receive all the extras is July 1st.**



2nd Annual FLC Carnival

Make sure you mark your calendars for Sunday, August 4th from 4-7 pm. That marks our 2nd Annual FLC Carnival with outdoor games, bouncy houses and wonderful food plus other games, fun and wonderful food! There are a few surprises up the committees sleeves too! More will be released as plans are finalized. They are still looking for a few volunteers to help run a few of the activities. If you are feeling the need or compelled to do so, talk to Kacy Hardt.

Altar Flower Signup Sheet

A signup sheet for altar flowers through September 29th is on the table in the narthex. Signup for that Sunday you want before it is taken. You furnish the flowers and make sure they get to the church.

Connections Magazine

The July/August issue of *Connections* is in the magazine racks in the narthex. Pick up a copy today to read updates on LCMC, NALC and other interesting articles.

Our Daily Bread and Portals of Prayer

The June/July/August issue of *Our Daily Bread* and the July - September 2024 issue of *Portals of Prayer* are in the magazine racks in the narthex. Pick up a copy to use with your daily devotions.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST LUTHERAN

TODAY	9:30 AM	Worship w/Holy Communion
	10:30 AM	Fellowship/Coffee Hour
	10:45 PM	Fireside Bible Study
	7:00 PM	AA Meeting AI-Anon Meeting
TUES.	10:00 AM	Mommy's Group
WED.	5:30 PM	Annual Church Picnic
	7:00 PM	FLY
THURS.	9:30 AM	Deborah Bible Study
SUN.	9:30 AM	Worship
	10:30 AM	Fellowship/Coffee Hour
	10:45 AM	Fireside Bible Study
	2:30 PM	FLCW leaves church for Riverboat Cruise
	7:00 PM	AA Meeting AI-Anon Meeting

Listening for the Promise

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 10) – July 14, 2024

“¹³In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.”

–Ephesians 1:13–14–

Kings and others of importance have used signet seals since ancient times. During the time of Saint Paul, they were still regularly used when sending letters. So what was the purpose of such seals, other than they looked really neat? Well, they served a practical purpose, and they were used in a number of ways.

First, it might seem to be the most obvious, seals were used when sending letters. Kings would use a signet ring and wax to seal a letter. It would ensure the letter was closed if it contained private information. But it also showed authenticity to the recipient. The recipient would know, based on the seal, who sent the letter.

Seals were also used to label possessions and show ownership. Growing up in Nebraska, I can remember ranchers branding their cattle. They do so to show that the cattle belong to them; they came from their ranch. At the beginning of every school year, I find myself labeling all my kids' school supplies and belongings. If one of my kids loses his/her crayons or lunch box, we have a better chance of it being returned to us because of the label.

Seals were used as a means of protection. Pontius Pilate ordered the soldiers to seal the tomb where Jesus would be buried following his crucifixion and death. Pilate was trying to protect the tomb. It was sealed with the Roman imperial seal, so as to deter thieves from trying to steal Jesus' body.

Paul says we are sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, so what does that mean for us? It shows ownership. To whom do we belong? To Christ. It shows authenticity. We are genuinely God's child. We have been marked with the cross of Christ in our baptism. You could say, we've been "branded" as God's own child. And this seal offers us protection. We are sealed and marked by God, not with a visible sign, but a sign that shines through as we proclaim God's love for others and live our lives in accordance with God's will for us. God has given us a wonderful gift in his Holy Spirit.