



"Woman, great is your faith!" Matthew 15:28

12th Weekend after Pentecost

August 15, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.

August 16, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.

First Lutheran Church
Decorah, IA

WELCOME TO FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Whatever your country of origin or ancestry, your race or ethnic heritage, and whether you are religious or not, Christian or not, or Lutheran or not, you are welcome here.

Whether you are male, female or transgender, young or old, straight, gay, lesbian or bisexual, you are welcome here.

Whether you are single or partnered, married, widowed or divorced, you are welcome here.

Whether you are wealthy or poor, own a home or rent, live at home or are homeless, you are welcome here.

Whatever your political views - whether to the right, to the left or to the center, you are welcome here.

Whatever your strengths or weaknesses, gifts or challenges, they will be honored, for you are welcome here.

First Lutheran Church is committed to being a loving and welcoming community centered in the Good News of Jesus Christ. In faithfulness to the Christian Gospel, in reflection of our Lutheran emphasis on grace, and in celebration of our shared baptismal journey, we promise to enter into ministry with all who seek God here.

We invite you to join us for worship and take up your place with us in ministry for you are welcome at First Lutheran Church.

NOTES ABOUT WORSHIP:

This **bulletin** contains the prayers, readings, some music, and responses that you will need to participate in worship.

Hymnals can be found in the pews for most congregational songs. We use both the red Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) and purple All Creation Sings (ACS) hymnals.

The **communion meal** is open to all who desire to participate, of any age. Gluten-free wafers and juice are available. Individual communion kits are also available as you enter the worship space for those who wish to remain in the pews.

Children are welcome at all of our worship services. A play area, where you'll also find quiet bags, is available for families in sanctuary. Feel free to nurse or feed your child in the sanctuary. We also have a staffed nursery during Sunday worship. Ask an usher for directions or follow the signs out the door at the northeast corner of the sanctuary.

Are you visiting? We invite you to fill out a yellow connection card found in your pew. Please also introduce yourself to Pr. Mike and Pr. David on your way out! Consider yourself welcome and invited to participate in the activities and worship life of this congregation!

In January 2026 we began Phase 2 of our **For Generations to Come** building project. While we are under construction, **restrooms** are available on the 1st level near the kitchen, our new nursery bathroom, and on the 2nd floor education wing. Visit firstlutherandecorah.org for weekly construction updates.

GATHERING

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

PRELUDE

5:00 p.m. only

Gather Us In - Marty Haugen/Mark Hayes

GATHERING SONG

9:00 a.m. only

ELW 779 Amazing Grace

WELCOME

Everyone is invited to share their prayer requests on the yellow cards. If you are new to worship, please also include your contact information.

GATHERING SONG

9:00 a.m. only

Jesus Loves Me Rock

V1: Jesus Loves Me (Jesus Loves Me)

This I know (This I know)

For the Bible (etc.)

Tells me so

Little ones to

Him belong

They are weak, but

He is strong

Chorus: And you spell his name a J (a J)

An E (an E)

An S (an S)

A U (a U)

An S (an S)

What's it spell? (Jesus!)

Louder! (Jesus!)

Louder! (Jesus!)

V2: Jesus loves me (Jesus loves me)

When I'm good

When I do the

Things I should

Jesus loves me

Even when I'm bad

Though it makes Him

Very sad

Chorus (softer this time at the end)

V3: Jesus loves me (Jesus loves Me)

He who died

Heaven's gates to

Open wide

He came to give us

Peace on earth

He came to give us

Second birth

Chorus

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
Silence is kept for reflection.

To you, O God,
all hearts are open, to you all desires known. We come to you,
confessing our sins. Forgive us in your mercy, and remember us
in your love. Show us your ways; teach us your paths; and lead
us in justice and truth, for the sake of your goodness in Jesus
Christ our Savior. Amen.

By water and the Holy Spirit God gives you a new birth, and
through the death and resurrection of † Jesus Christ, God forgives
you all your sins. The God of mercy and might strengthen you in all
goodness and keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

***HYMN OF PRAISE**

Refrain

By grace we have been saved— saved by grace through faith,
not be-cause of what we do; it is the gift of God.

1 On the days when you are weak, on the
2 Rest your bod - y, rest your mind, in the
3 You don't need to be a - fraid. You will

days when you are strong, rich or poor,
still - ness you will find you're a love - ly,
nev - er be a - lone. There is mer - cy,

Refrain

young or old, just lis - ten to the song.
pre - cious child, part of the great de - sign.
there is hope, and love will take you home.

***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**

After we pause to breathe and for personal prayer, the presiding minister will pray.

God of all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those who
call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world
with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known
throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

WORD

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE *Sunday only*

FIRST READING

Genesis 45:1-15

Moved to tears by Judah's plea on behalf of Benjamin, Joseph declares, "I am Joseph!" and asks, "Is my father still alive?" Despite the brothers' evil intent, God used Joseph to preserve many lives at a time of famine.

[After Judah offered himself in place of his brother Benjamin,]¹ Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, "Send everyone away from me." So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers.² And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it.³ Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

⁴ Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt."⁵ And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life.⁶ For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest.⁷ God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to keep alive for you many survivors.⁸ So it was not you who sent me here but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt.⁹ Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me; do not delay.'¹⁰ You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have.¹¹ I will provide for you there, since there are five more years of famine to come, so that you and your household and all that you have will not come to poverty.'¹² And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you.¹³ You must tell my father how greatly I am honored in Egypt and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here."¹⁴ Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck.¹⁵ And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them, and after that his brothers talked with him.

Word of God, word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM Psalm 133

¹ How good and how pleasant it is,
when kindred live together in unity!

² **It is like fine oil upon the head, flowing down upon the beard,
upon the beard of Aaron, flowing down upon the collar of his
robe.**

³ It is like the dew of Hermon flowing down upon the hills of Zion.
For there the Lord has commanded the blessing: life forevermore.
How good and pleasant it is to live together in unity.

SECOND READING

Romans 11:1-2a, 29-36

*God has not rejected Israel.
Rather, the call and gifts of God
are irrevocable so that, while all
have been disobedient, God has
mercy upon all.*

[Paul writes:] ¹ I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. ^{2a} God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

²⁹ For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. ³⁰ Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, ³¹ so also they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they also may now receive mercy. ³² For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

³³ O the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are God's judgments and how inscrutable God's ways!

³⁴ "For who has known the mind of the Lord?
Or who has been his counselor?"

³⁵ "Or who has given a gift to him,
to receive a gift in return?"

³⁶ For from God and through God and to God are all things. To God be the glory forever. Amen.

Word of God, word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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, al - le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.
Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

* Please rise in body or spirit.

***GOSPEL** The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus teaches his disciples that true purity is a matter of the heart rather than outward religious observances. Almost immediately, this teaching is tested when a woman considered to be a religious outsider approaches him for help.

Matthew 15:21-28

²¹ Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²² Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." ²³ But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." ²⁴ He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." ²⁵ But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." ²⁶ He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." ²⁷ She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." ²⁸ Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed from that moment.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON Pr. Mike Wilker

***HYMN OF THE DAY** ELW 588 There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*This summer we bring both our thanksgivings and prayers to God, who hears and holds us in love. First we'll give our thanks, ending each petition: Thank you, God. The congregation responds **Alleluia!** Then we'll share our prayer concerns ending each petition: God have mercy. The congregation responds **Hear our prayer.** A brief silence. The minister concludes each petition: Let us pray. A brief silence for prayer follows each petition.*

Mighty God of mercy, we thank you for the resurrection dawn, bringing the glory of our risen Lord who makes every day new. Especially we thank you—

for the sustaining goodness of your creation . . . Thank you, God.

Alleluia!

for the new creation in Christ and all gifts of healing and forgiveness . . . Thank you, God. **Alleluia!**

for the gifts of relationship with others . . . Thank you, God.

Alleluia!

for the communion of faith in your church . . . Thank you, God.

Alleluia!

Congregation members may add other thanksgivings.

Merciful God of might, renew this weary world, heal the hurts of all your children, and bring about your peace for all in Christ Jesus, the living Lord.

Especially we pray—

for our friends and family members seeking healing and peace including *(the minister will read names from our congregational prayer list; congregation members can also add additional names)* . . . God have mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

for those who govern nations of the world . . . God have mercy,

Hear our prayer.

for the people in countries ravaged by strife or warfare . . . God have mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

for all who work for peace and international harmony . . . God have mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

for all who strive to save the earth from carelessness and destruction . . . God have mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

for the church of Jesus Christ in every land . . . God have mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Congregation members may add other intercessions.

Receive our prayers, O God, and come quickly to our aid, through the power of the Spirit and the love of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

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

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Prayers, announcements, and updates can be found in the weekly AfterWord. To view the AfterWord or to subscribe online, visit firstlutherandecorah.org/afterword or scan the QR code.



MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Christ.

OFFERING

5:00 p.m. - Build a Longer Table - Mike Ellingsen

9:00 a.m. - First Lutheran Church Pop-up Choir: Alleluia Incantation
- Andrew Miller



Give online at firstlutherandecorah.org/give, text "GIVE" to (563) 412-2243, or scan the QR code.

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

**Come Lord Jesus be our guest. Let these gifts to us be blessed.
May there be a goodly share on every table everywhere. Amen.**

***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 our duty and delight that we should everywhere and always offer thanks and praise to you, O 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, church on earth, and the hosts of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

***HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -
 san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
 est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
 san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

***THANKSGIVING AT THE
TABLE WITH WORDS
OF INSTITUTION**

Holy God, how majestic is your name in all the earth. The earth is full of your glory. **The earth is full of your glory.**

Holy God, you took on our flesh in Jesus our healer. In Christ, you bring life from death. Broken like bread, he enlivens our body. Outpoured like wine, he fills the earth with goodness. The earth is full of your glory. **The earth is full of your glory.**

We praise you for the heart of Jesus, so filled with your love for this earth.

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.

Gathered around this table, we your children unite in this song:
 The earth is full of your glory. **The earth is full of your glory.**

Holy God, send forth your Spirit and renew the face of the earth. Strengthen us for our journey with this meal, the body and blood of Christ. Give us a future that trusts in you and cares for your earth. Encouraged by your promises, we praise you again: The earth is full of your glory. **The earth is full of your glory. Amen.**

***LORD'S PRAYER** Gathered around this table by the Spirit, we pray as Jesus taught.
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** *We believe Jesus Christ is present when we share this meal. Here God nourishes our faith, forgives our sin, and calls us to share God's love. Adults and children of any age are welcome to receive communion.*

COMMUNION MUSIC 5:00 p.m. - Create in Me a Clean Heart - arranged by Mark Hayes
9:00 a.m. - Holy Time

This is holy time, gathered together to worship you and love one another.

And as we pray, and as we sing, and as we dance, and as we dream,
oh Lord, I beg of you, just this one thing:

Won't you dance with me, throughout the heavens, and below the sea,

and up on the mountain tops, flow with the breeze, come carry me;
Lord won't you dance.....with me?

Create in Me (see page 11)

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION** O God, in this holy communion you have welcomed us into your presence, nourished us with words of mercy, and fed us at your table. Amid the cares of this life, strengthen us to love you with all our heart, serve our neighbors with a willing spirit, and honor the earth you have made; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in love to serve.

***BLESSING** The LORD bless you and keep you. The LORD's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The LORD look upon you with favor and + give you peace. **Amen.**

***SENDING HYMN** 5:00 p.m. - ELW 705 God of Grace & God of Glory (verse 2)
9:00 a.m. - I'll Do My Best

Love, I'll love, I'll love you, Lord, forever (x2)

I'll do my best, I'll do my best, whoa. I'll do my best for you! oh oh oh

I'll do my best, I'll do my best, whoa, I'll do my best for you.

Serve | Trust | Praise

***DISMISSAL** Go in peace, free to love. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE To God Be the Glory - William Diane/John Carter
5:00 p.m. only

* Please rise in body or spirit.

Sing entire song through twice

Create in Me

Bruce Becker and Handt Hanson

Cre - ate in me a clean heart O God,

and re-new a right spi - rit with-in me.

Cast me not a - way from your pre - sence, O Lord, and

take not your ho - ly spi - rit from me. Re -

store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,

and re - new a right spi - rit with-in me.

5:00 P.M. WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Pr. Mike Wilker, preaching & presiding minister
Kendra van Sloten, reader
Darrel Jensen, communion assistant
Mike Ellingsen, piano
Darrel & Mary Pat Jensen, worship welcome team

9:00 A.M. WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Pr. Mike Wilker, preaching minister
Pr. David Severtson, presiding minister
Andrew Whitfield, assisting minister
Vicky Jaeger, reader & communion assistant
Mandy Severtson, musician
Mark Potvin, musician
First Lutheran Church Pop-up Choir
Heidi Snell-Anderson, stream team
Niva Anderson, stream team
Kara Franke, nursery
Kevin & Kris Quandahl, worship welcome team
Bill & Kelli Courtney, worship welcome team
David & Brenda Carlson, worship welcome team

The flowers on the altar are given by Neal & Nancy Solomonson, from their garden.

