



Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

**FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
408 9TH STREET NW
MANDAN, ND 58554**

Building Faith and Transforming Lives in Christ

September 6, 2026

9:30 A.M.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 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 *“Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling”* *ELW #608 or Page 8*

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

Pastor: Let us pray....

O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 33:7-11

God appointed Ezekiel as a sentinel for the house of Israel. Ezekiel must faithfully convey God's warnings to the people. Remarkably, God—who is about to attack Jerusalem—gives a warning with the hope that repentance will make the attack unnecessary.

⁷ So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸ If I say to the wicked, "O wicked ones, you shall surely die," and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. ⁹ But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life. ¹⁰ Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel: Thus you have said: "Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?" ¹¹ Say to them: As I live, says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSE: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 119:33-40

I desire the path of your commandments. (Ps. 119:35)

- ³³ Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes,
and I shall keep it to the end.
- ³⁴ **Give me understanding, and I shall keep your teaching;
I shall keep it with all my heart.**
- ³⁵ Lead me in the path of your commandments,
for that is my desire.
- ³⁶ **Incline my heart to your decrees
and not to unjust gain.**
- ³⁷ Turn my eyes from beholding falsehood;
give me life in your way.
- ³⁸ **Fulfill your promise to your servant,
which is for those who fear you.**
- ³⁹ Turn away the reproach that I dread,
because your judgments are good.
- ⁴⁰ **Behold, I long for your commandments;
by your righteousness enliven me.**

SECOND READING: Romans 13:8-14

The obligation of Christians is to love one another and so fulfill the heart and goal of the law. Clothes make the person as we “put on the Lord Jesus Christ” and live today in light of the future God has in store for us.

⁸ Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹ The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; you shall not murder; you shall not steal; you shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. ¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³ let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSE: Thanks be to God.



The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

“Glory to you, O Lord.”

GOSPEL: Matthew 18:15-20

Jesus offers practical advice to his disciples on how individuals—and the church as a whole—should go about restoring relationships when one member has sinned against another.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵ “If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that one. ¹⁶ But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If that person refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church, and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a gentile and a tax collector.

¹⁸ Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

The gospel of the Lord. **“Praise to you, O Christ.”**

SERMON *Pastor Phil*

HYMN OF THE DAY *“There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy” ELW #588 or Page 9*

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 THE CHURCH

Leader: “Hear us, O God.”

Congregation: “Your mercy is great.”

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

The musical score is written for a two-part setting (Soprano and Bass) in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are: "Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, Lord, send your Spir-it in this place; Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace." The score consists of two systems, each with a treble and bass staff. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, Lord, send your Spir-it in this place;

Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

Text: Ken Medema, b. 1943

Music: CHILDREN PRAYING, Ken Medema

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PEACE

The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

Please greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

OFFERING

Thank you for your financial offerings to First Lutheran. Your generosity enables us to carry out the mission of Christ through our life together here in this congregation and through our loving service to our neighbors beyond our walls. We now have resumed the traditional offering practice of "passing the plates." For those who contribute to First Lutheran's ministry in ways other than weekly in-church offerings and would still like to be included in the in-worship gathering of the offering, laminated "Offering Cards" are now included in the pew racks for you to place in the offering plates.

OFFERTORY

"We Are an Offering"

ELW #692 or Page 10

OFFERING PRAYER

HOLY COMMUNION

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE 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, forever and ever. Amen.

MEAL

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER

BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN *“Blest Be the Tie That Binds”* *ELW #656 or Page 11*

Pastor: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Cong: Thanks be to God.

Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling

1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for
 2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for
 3 Oh, for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for

you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,
 you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,
 you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,

Refrain
 watch - ing for you and for me.
 mer - cies for you and for me? "Come home, come home!
 par - don for you and for me. Come home, come home!"

You who are wea - ry, come home." Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,

Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, "O sin - ner, come home!"

Text: Will L. Thompson, 1847–1909
 Music: THOMPSON, Will L. Thompson

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy



- 1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer - cy, like the wide - ness of the sea;
- 2 There is wel - come for the sin - ior, and a prom - ised grace made good;
- 3 For the love of God is broad - er than the mea - sures of our mind;
- 4 'Tis not all we owe to Je - sus; it is some - thing more than all:



there's a kind - ness in God's jus - tice which is more than lib - er - ty.
there is mer - cy with the Sav - ior; there is heal - ing in his blood.
and the heart of the E - ter - nal is most won - der - ful - ly kind.
great - er good be - cause of e - vil, larg - er mer - cy through the fall.



There is no place where earth's sor - rows are more felt than up in heav'n.
There is grace e - nough for thou - sands of new worlds as great as this;
But we make this love too nar - row by false lim - its of our own;
Make our love, O God, more faith - ful; let us take you at your word,



There is no place where earth's fail - ings have such kind - ly judg - ment giv'n.
there is room for fresh cre - a - tions in that up - per home of bliss.
and we mag - ni - fy its strict - ness with a zeal God will not own.
and our lives will be thanks - giv - ing for the good - ness of the Lord.

Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814–1863, alt.
Music: LORD, REVIVE US, North American, 19th cent.

We Are an Offering

692

We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an
 of-fer-ing. Lord, use our voices, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our
 lives, they are yours: we are an of-fer-ing. All that we have, all that we are,
 all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you.
 We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you:
 we are an of-fer-ing, we are an of-fer-ing.

Lyrics: Dwight Liles, b. 1957
 Music: Dwight Liles
 Arranged and music © 1984 Word Music, LLC

OFFERING
 PM

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major and 4/4 time. It consists of two systems of music. The first system contains four staves of music, each with a vocal line and a corresponding line of lyrics. The second system contains two staves of music, each with a vocal line and a corresponding line of lyrics. The music is written in a simple, homophonic style with many chords and some melodic lines. The lyrics are printed below the vocal staves.

1 Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Chris - tian love;
2 Be - fore our Fa - ther's throne we pour our ar - dent prayers;
3 We share our mu - tual woes, our mu - tual bur - dens bear,
4 From sor - row, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free;

the u - ni - ty of heart and mind is like to that a - bove.
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.
and of - ten for each oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.
and per - fect love and friend - ship reign through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Text: John Fawcett, 1740–1817, alt.

Music: DENNIS, Johann G. Nägeli, 1773–1836, adapt.

Attendance last Week: Sunday 9:30 - 140
Wednesday 6:00 - 27

ON-GOING PRAYER CONCERNS:

Noel Albrecht, Brad Schmidt, Joan Hanson, Debbie Martineson, Hal Lang, Patrick Lang, Jason Bjorgen, Ken Charvat, Dave Thomas, Joann Meyer, Preston Joyce, Susan Voigt, Toby Kienzle, Pam Weng, Lois Smith, Barb Carl, Jeff MacIver, Brady Mattson, Darin Hinsz, Jerome Bauer, Wendel Mongeon, Brenda Hersch, Jared & Jenn Barnhart, Ray Stenmoen, Connor Hertz, Teresa Seeman, Linda Stastny, Rachael Hankin, Opal Renken, David Jung, Dina Walker, Kay Link, Tammy Krein, Terry Tanaka, Wanda House, Tom Burau, Judy Walters, Monte Olmsted, Pat Kincaid, Victor Saeman, Lualice Stockert, Katy Anseth, Sarah Weishaar, Anna Anderson, Brenna Blankenship, Ted (Theodore) Delfs, Allen Janz, Justin Hankin, Judy Anderson, Rori Messer, Jayar Kindsvogel, Kristen Rasmussen, Jerry Iverson, Jason Klipfel, Lois Helmer, Pius Johner, Cori Musolf, Stan Hepper, Eunice Wolf, Adam Walker, Mary Hogan, Corey Palmer, Sandy Hertz, Jacee Huber, Laurie Ronholdt, Naida Feland, Larry Harm, Toby Croteau

First Lutheran Church will be updating the prayer list periodically. If a name is not listed and you would like it re-listed please call the church office at 663-3594. We will re-list names for prayers.

PLEASE KEEP THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN CALLED TO SERVICE FOR OUR COUNTRY IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Todd Bauer, Alex Dove, Jacob Selzler

If you know of anyone who has ties to our congregation and is called to active duty, please contact the church office.

Pastor Phil Leer's phone number: 701-341-7784
(If you need to reach him please give him a call)

Ushers:

Luke Keller
Francis Miller

Reader:

Peg Nyberg

Communion Servers:

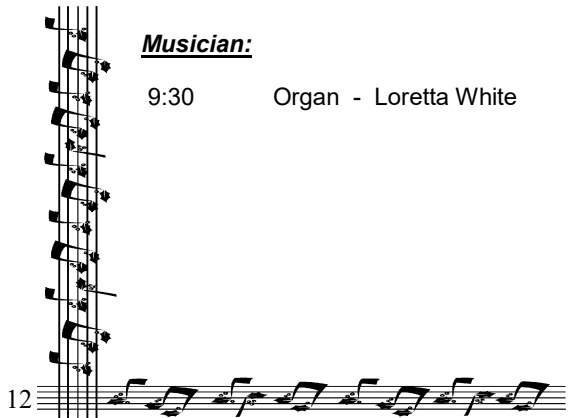
Gail Mayer
Shelby Skytland

Communion Set-Up:

Corby Rachel

Musician:

9:30 Organ - Loretta White



WE NEED YOUR HELP!

We are looking for ushers, communion servers, readers & communion set up for all worship services. Since we have gone back to passing the offering plate we need at least 2 ushers for every service. If you could help out please sign your name on the sheets provided, by the bulletins, in the narthex.

BACK TO FALL WORSHIP STARTING SEPTEMBER 13TH!!

- **Sunday Fall Worship beginning September 13, 2026**
 - *8:30 a.m. Traditional Service
 - *10:30 a.m. Contemporary Service (NOTE NEW TIME)
- **Wednesday Fall Worship beginning September 16, 2026**
 - *Worship 6:30-7:15 p.m.
- **Sunday School starts on Sunday, September 13, 2026**
 - *Sunday School 9:30-10:15 a.m. (NOTE NEW TIME)
- **Wednesday School starts on Wednesday, September 16, 2026**
 - *Wednesday School 5:45 p.m.
- **Confirmation Orientation Wednesday, September 9, 2026**
 - *7:00 p.m.
- **Wednesday Confirmation classes start September 16, 2026**
 - *7:30 p.m.





Save the Date: The ELCA Youth Gathering will be this next summer in Minneapolis, MN from June 28 through July 2, 2027! Registration opens starting October 21. There will be more information to come, but if you have any questions, please contact Pastor Adam by email at adam@firstlutheranofmandan.org or by phone at (701)595-3180.

The next **Caregiver Lunch & Learn Series** will be held here on September 17 from Noon to 1:00 p.m. RSVP to Kelly Bengtson at 701-712-2234. They will be focusing on supporting caregivers. Please see the bulletin board for more information.



Are you interested in a Bible Study?
Please call the church office and let us know.
If we have enough interest we would start in
October.

We extend our sympathy to the family of Evelyn Schwagler, Tim Schwagler's mother. Her funeral was Friday, September 4 at Zion Lutheran Church in New Salem. Please keep her family in your prayers.

Mission of the Month - Weekend Meals For Mandan Kids

Items needed are Chap Stick, Canned Tuna, Canned Chicken, Canned Ham, Peanut Butter, Jelly, Fruit Cups, Canned Fruit, Granola Bars, Cereal, Pudding Cups, Applesauce, Chef Boyardee', Mac & Cheese, Soups, Hamburger Helper, Spaghetti Noodles, Spaghetti Sauce, Pop Tarts, Instant Mashed Potatoes, Rice A Roni, Pasta Roni, Pork and Beans, Baked Beans, Pancake Mix-no eggs required such as Krusteaz Brand, Syrup.

NO GLASS JARS PLEASE!

You may put your items in the boxes in the Narthex. Thank you!



We just can't wait to get together to ring those bells! We will be gathering Wednesday, September 9th right after Wednesday service at 7:15 pm. All ages welcome! Please contact Cathy Long 701-527-0548 if you have any questions.



Hey all you singers out there, we're getting everything ready for you for the 2026-27 season. Our first practice will be Wednesday, September 9th at 5:15 pm. Please contact Cathy Long 701-527-0548 if you have any questions.

Church Picnic:



We will have a picnic at the **Eagle's Park on Sunday, September 13th** (shelter 1 and indoor shelter) following the 10:30 a.m. service. All church families are invited. Hamburgers and hotdogs will be provided. Please join us for worship,

food & fun!

Last names starting with A through M bring a SALAD & N through Z bring a DESSERT.



If you have not registered your child/ children for Sunday/Wednesday School or Confirmation please do so.

The link is [Bit.ly/26-27FLM](https://bit.ly/26-27FLM) .

You may also go to our website and click on the link to register.

DOWNLOAD THE “VANCO MOBILE” APP TODAY!



OR TEXT 8449340609 TO DONATE

If you would like to give electronically, visit our website or contact the church office.

We have to stay financially strong. The ongoing ministry of our church is dependent on the tithes and offerings of our people. Electronic giving is the best way to do this. Many of you are already on our giving platform. If you are not giving electronically, this would be a good time to do that. You can sign up here <https://firstlutheranofmandan.com/>. Simply click on the button on the right hand side that says “Give Online”. If you prefer to make your gifts by check, you can drop it off at the church or mail it to 408 9th St NW Mandan, ND 58554. Staying strong in worship, caring ministries, and finances are important as we work to love and serve hurting people during this tumultuous time.

If you provide your financial offerings to First Lutheran through other ways besides the weekly worship gathering of gifts (e.g.: Vanco, automatic bank withdrawal), you are welcome to place one of the laminated “offering cards” in the pew rack in the offering plate during the Offering.

Notes on Holy Communion:

Practice: *We practice Open Communion, which means if you are here, you are welcome at the table of Christ. If you do not take Communion, or you do not take Communion yet, you are still welcome to come forward for a blessing. We can also bring Communion to you in your pew if you are unable to come forward. Please notify one of the ushers.*

Procedure: *You will receive a wafer of bread and a small cup of communion wine (juice and gluten free wafers are also available; please let your server know). Please place the empty cup in the waste basket by the communion assistant as you return to your pew.*

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

408 9TH Street NW, Mandan, ND Phone: 663-3594
email: jackie@firstlutheranofmandan.org www.firstlutheranofmandan.com

WEEK AT A GLANCE

SUNDAY 6	7:00 COMMUNITY ACCESS CHANNEL 12 OR 612 9:30 WORSHIP/LIVE STREAM WORSHIP
MONDAY 7	OFFICE CLOSED
TUESDAY 8	8:30 HOMESCHOOLERS 9:00 STAFF
WEDNESDAY 9	5:15 CHOIR PRACTICE 6:00 WORSHIP 7:00 CONFIRMATION ORIENTATION FOR ALL 8TH & 9TH GRADERS & PARENTS 7:15 BELL CHOIR
THURSDAY 10	
FRIDAY 11	
SATURDAY 12	
SUNDAY 13	7:00 COMMUNITY ACCESS CHANNEL 12 OR 612 8:30 WORSHIP/LIVE STREAM WORSHIP 9:30 COFFEE 9:30 SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 WORSHIP 11:30 PICNIC @ EAGLES PARK 2:00 FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE 6:00 9-12 GRADE YOUTH GROUP