

***"Welcome to Worship"***

God is here for you,  
In the word and sacraments,  
in the love of this community.

Welcome - it's great to have you here!  
Thank you for choosing to worship with us at  
First Lutheran today.

**18th Sunday after Pentecost  
Sunday, September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2026  
GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER**

**Ministers:**

Members of First Lutheran Church

**Worship Leader:** Ingrid Wielenberg

**Music:** SOS Music (iPad) – Tami Taubert

**Sound:** Ryan Wielenberg

**Reader:** Nancy Johnson

**Acolyte:** .

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**Facebook:** Google First Lutheran Church  
Pipestone FB & click the FB link on the webpage.



***Scattering seeds of love,  
worship & service***

***Welcome/Announcements***

***Confession and Forgiveness – (please stand)***

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

**C: Amen.**

L: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

L: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Most merciful God,

**C: we confess that we are captive 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.**

L: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

**C: Amen.**

**Gathering Hymn: ELW #654 – The Church's One Foundation**

***Greeting***

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.**

**Kyrie: pg 138 (please speak responses)**

**Hymn of Praise: pg 139 – Glory to God (begin singing when music begins)**

**Prayer of the Day**

L: Let us pray.

**C: 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.**

***(Please be seated)***

## ***Hearing God's Word***

### **First Lesson: Ezekiel 18:1-4; 25-32**

The word of the Lord came to me: What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge"? As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins who shall die. Yet you say, "The way of the Lord is unfair." Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed, they shall die. Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. Yet the house of Israel says, "The way of the Lord is unfair." O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? Therefore, I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise, iniquity will be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live. Here ends the First Lesson. **C: Thanks be to God.**

### **Responsive Psalm: Psalm 25:1-9 (please read responsively)**

R: To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

**C: My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

R: Let none who look to you be put to shame; rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

**C: Show me your ways, O Lord, and teach me your paths.**

R: Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

**C: Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.**

R: Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.

**C: You are gracious and upright, O Lord; therefore, you teach sinners in your way.**

R: You lead the lowly in justice and teach the lowly your way.

### **Second Lesson: Philippians 2:1-13**

If then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, assuming human likeness. And being found in appearance as a human, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Therefore, God exalted him even more highly and gave him the name that is above every other name, so that at the name given to Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence but much more now in my absence, work on your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Here ends the Second Lesson. **C: Thanks be to God.**

## **Children's Time**

L: Please stand in honor of the reading of the gospel.

The **Holy Gospel** is taken from **Matthew 21:23-32**

**C: Glory to you O Lord.**

When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also

ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why, then, did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet." So, they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. 'What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not,' but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered, 'I go, sir,' but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and even after you saw it you did not change your minds and believe him."

The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.** *(please be seated)*

## Sermon

**Hymn of the Day:** ELW #344 - All Glory Laud and Honor (vs 1,2,4 & 5)

## Apostle's Creed

### *Responding to God's Word*

#### Prayers of the Church

L: Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great**

L: Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

**C: Amen**

**Offering Hymn (please stand for the hymn):** ELW #839 – Now Thank We All Our God (vs 1 & 3)

**Offering Prayer:**

L: Let us pray.

**C: Faithful God, all we have is a blessing from your hand. As we return a portion of your gifts, let this act of giving shape our hearts into instruments of your mercy. Use these gifts to extend the message of salvation. In Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.**

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## Lord's Prayer

### *Benediction*

L: 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.

**C: Amen.**

**Sending Hymn:** ELW #742 – What a Friend We Have in Jesus

### *Dismissal*

L: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Welcome! It is GREAT to have you here! Thank you for choosing to worship with us here today.**

**The Worship Radio Broadcast** is sponsored in memory of Dennis Hazelton by Rita Hazelton.

**† Continuing Prayer Concerns:**

We pray for Hope Solomon (Kristen Brockberg's mother) as she is on home hospice care. We give our healing prayers to: Mary Meyer (Sarah Meyer's sister), Randy Claussen, Paul Cunningham (brother-in-law of Robert & Teri Petersen), Mary Sacco, Mary Lou Bjugan, Vera Newgard, Maverick & Carly Burkard, JoAnn Straw and Kay Dubbelde.

**\*\*\* If you or someone you know has a Prayer Concern, please call the church office 825-5837 to have it listed in the bulletin and church webpage. You can also email the church [office@firstlutheranpipestone.org](mailto:office@firstlutheranpipestone.org). Please feel free to send a card of encouragement to anyone listed above. Addresses are posted on the Caring Cards sheet hanging on the south post in the Narthex. THANK YOU in advance!!**

**This Week's Schedule (September 27<sup>th</sup> – October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026)**

**Today:** 9:30am – Worship w/Ingrid Wielenberg, live-streamed; Radio: 10:30am aired on KLOH (1050 AM)

**Wednesday:** FLC serves at The Banquet – students & chaperones load bus @3:45pm.

**Sunday:** 9:30am – Worship w/Pastor Margo Martens, Lytle baptism, live-streamed; Radio: 10:30am aired on KLOH (1050 AM)

| <b>September 2026 Offering</b>               |                                    |
|----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>Monthly Offering needed:</b>              | <b>\$17,506.00</b>                 |
| Weekly Offering – September 6 <sup>th</sup>  |                                    |
| Weekly Offering – September 13 <sup>th</sup> |                                    |
| Weekly Offering – September 20 <sup>th</sup> |                                    |
| Weekly Offering – September 27 <sup>th</sup> |                                    |
| <b>MONTH TOTAL:</b>                          |                                    |
| <b>Needed per week:</b>                      |                                    |
| <b>4-week month = \$4,377/week</b>           | <b>5-week month = \$3,502/week</b> |

Extra offering books are available on the table in the narthex. Please feel free to take another book if you are running low!!

Simply Giving is also available online by scanning the QR code in the bulletin.

VISITORS – please feel free to scan the QR code (by Offering above) if you wish to give to First Lutheran today.

THANK YOU for giving!!

**Noisy Offering for September 2026 was collected for:**

**The Banquet in Sioux Falls**

The total amount collected was: **\$41.60**

**THANK YOU for your support of these important Outreach needs.**



**September Noisy Offering will go to The Banquet in Sioux Falls  
(First Lutheran will be serving there on Wednesday, September 30<sup>th</sup>.)**

*First Lutheran is very proud to be able to help serve & provide meals for families at the Banquet for so many years!*

### September 2026 Worship Leaders:

† Sunday, September 27<sup>th</sup> – Ingrid Wielenberg

### October 2026 Worship Leaders:

† Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup> – Pastor Margo Martens (w/Lytle baptism)

† Sunday, October 11<sup>th</sup> – John Lupkes

† Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup> – Pastor Mark Jamison (w/communion)

† Sunday, October 25<sup>th</sup> – Mark Carlson



➤ **Wednesday, September 30<sup>th</sup>** – First Lutheran serving at the Banquet in Sioux Falls.  
Youth & chaperones: bus loads at 3:45pm with a 4pm departure. Should return between 9 & 9:30pm.  
THANK YOU to all who are prepping meals and serving – your work is GREATLY appreciated!



### **We are in NEED Communion Assistants, Lesson Readers and Acolytes!!!**

If you are able to help us out, **please** sign up on the clipboard in the Narthex OR you can sign up online by using the QR code to the left <<<.

You can also look to see the schedule for ushers – just by scanning the QR code with your phone!

**Many hands make for light work – please consider being one of the many hands!!!!**

Volunteers In Mercy will be hosting a sit-down Thanksgiving dinner on Thanksgiving Day (11/26) starting at 11 AM at the Pipestone Christian Reformed Church. Our goal is to bless others in the name of Christ by offering community, friendship, and a welcoming place for anyone who does not have somewhere to go on Thanksgiving. We are looking for volunteers to help in several areas: setting up, food prep, serving, cleanup, etc. Come at whatever time works for you. If you are able to help, please call or text Shelli DeRuyter at 507-820-1425.



**ROUND-TABLE CHIT-CHAT:** The Round-Table committee's job is to collect information for the next step in the search for a new pastor. We want to hear your thoughts, ideas, wants, needs – of your church, your pastor, etc. Old & young members, families, kids – your input matters more than you know. We would like to have a few more Chit-Chats in the next month or two so be watching for more Chit-Chat's – after church or while the kids are at LIFT on a Wednesday. Our committee values your input so please don't be afraid to talk to one of us or drop us a note in the offering plate, Input Box (narthex) or the office mailbox.



*Round Table Committee (Lori Ilse – lead, Tom & Diane Dunn, Danielle Ossefoort, Marit Sterud & Mike Wussow)*

### **Input received so far:**

|                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Preaching/Church life | Mix of traditional & modern (contemporary) styles, inspires & motivates, services are engaging, interesting to listen to, sermons with meaning and you can understand, enjoys youth ministry, tries their best to listen to wants/needs of congregation, relatable & up-beat, sermons that connect with modern day life. |
| Personality/home life | Younger perhaps with a family, ambitious/self-motivated, personable/easy to talk to/welcoming, good with all ages, active in the community                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Church ideas          | Coffee bar/food for more ways to gather/fellowship, more church activities (lock-ins, life skills, etc)                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |

Thank you to those who have already submitted notes – IT'S AWESOME! Keep the input coming – Please encourage others to do the same!!!

### **Congregation Input Box**

Please know that we need EVERYONE to be involved in some way in the search for a new pastor. So, we have placed a lovely box (WHITE) in the Narthex. Using the scratch paper in the pews (paper also available by the box), please let us know a few things:

- Likes/Dislikes of pastors you have heard preach (here or elsewhere, no names please)
  - List top 3 things you feel are important in a church.
  - Traits of a good pastor (what you feel are good traits).
  - Any other things you feel may be helpful.

We do not want any names, we just ask for your honesty in letting us know your needs as a person of faith, what you would like to see for our younger members in their faith journey, etc. It is very important to keep an open mind and not look at the here and now, but what we want to see down the road. We want to do what we can to ensure that First Lutheran is here for future generations – we need your help, we need your input.

*\*\*Please understand that there is no way to possibly fill everyone's needs and wants but we want to get a good idea of where to begin. THANK YOU!!!*

## ***Words of Encouragement***

***You are a person chosen by God to do important work today. Be ready.***

*For it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.*

*~Philippians 2:13*

***Open ears hear the Word of God. Open mouths declare it!***

*Faith comes from hearing the message and the message is heard through the word of Christ.*

*~Romans 10:17*

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