



First Lutheran Church

Gospel of Matthew

Summer 2026 Reading Challenge



Introduction

Week 5: Matthew chapters 9 and 10

	Chapter Outline
Matthew 9:2-8	Jesus heals a paralytic
Matthew 9:9-13	Jesus calls Matthew
Matthew 9:14-17	The Question about fasting
Matthew 9:18-34	Jesus heals
Matthew 9:35-10:42	The Harvest, the Mission, the Repercussions

What to Expect

Chapters 9 and 10 introduce us to the conflict the Gospel, the Good News brings. The Good News heals those who have lost hope, the good news confronts death with life, the good news stirs the religiously uptight, the good news startles who communities and turns family life upside down. Why? What is so inherently dangerous about this good news that wherever it goes, conflict seems to follow?

This is the challenge as we read the Gospel. We want the Gospel to be comforting, safe, protecting, all good things. We don't want to be confronted with News that challenges our inherent desires, our worldly ways. Yet this is what it does.

The Good News challenges us as we mourn. The Good News challenges us when we think we are not good enough to be welcome. The Good News sends us into a world that is not ready to be turned upside down. Why? Because the Good News brings the life the world wants to keep from us. The Good News brings a true safety that those in power only pretend to offer. The Good News creates new relationships, reordering family dynamics that do not align with the patriarchies or matriarchies our social structures want us to live by.

This is what the community Matthew is living in as he writes about Jesus is experiencing -- the conflict inherent in the Gospel. This is why Matthew tells us about Jesus telling us this is going to be a part of our faith journey. And Matthew wants to assure us through all of it, Jesus is Emmanuel, God with us.

2026 Summer Reading Challenge

Throughout this summer, First Lutheran Church will engage the Gospel of Matthew.

Each week we will read 2 chapters of Matthew.

Resources will be available along the way, including:

- An introduction to the week
- A Deep Dive into a big theme of Matthew's Gospel
- A Deep Dive into one part of this week's reading
- A Devotional based on one part of this week's reading
- A Video to read along with Pastor Jamie.

Check out our website and our Facebook page for weekly and daily postings related to this reading challenge.

Gathered by God, we live our faith with: Compassion, Grace, Gratitude, and Joy

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