



16 Pentecost
Thursday, September 10, 2026
6:00 p.m.
Sunday, September 13, 2026
10:30 a.m.

WELCOME

WELCOME

Welcome to this time of worship. We are especially grateful for those of you who are visitors. You make us more whole. First Lutheran is a part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, a church body committed to the welcome of the stranger and to the questions and doubts of all seekers.

Contact Us

Pastor – Bill Uetracht

Pastoral Assistant – Paula Dusseljee

Parish Administrator – Lorey Montgomery

Music Director – Shar Bourdon

Asst. Music Director – Lisa Ziemelis

Ed. and Youth Coord. – Emma Johnston

MS and HS Youth – Jeff and Laura Lucht

Audio-Visual Technician – Karl Ziemelis

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We are grateful you are here!

Thank you for your faithful giving.

Ways to give:

Scan the QR code below or use the “Simply Giving” program to make regular donations from your checking account. Download the form from our website and turn into the office.



The flowers on the altar and the eternal candle are given by Lisa Ferski and Evie DiPiazza in memory of their mom Betty O'Toole.

Announcements

Our **next new members' class** will begin on Wednesday, September 30 at 6:10 p.m. The class will last four weeks.

Grief share classes begin have started and take place on Tuesdays from 6:00-7:00 p.m. It's not too late to join! Questions? Contact Paula Dusseljee: paula@firstlutheranmuskegon.org or Evie DiPiazza: evie.dipi-azza@gmail.com.

Pastor Bill will be participating in a bike ride on Saturday, September 19th to **help raise funds** for **Living Water Ministry's** scholarship fund that keeps camp affordable for all. He welcomes your financial support. Check out the Living Water Ministries website.

Any youth interested in attending the **National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis in June 2027** should plan to attend a meeting here on September 20 at 6:30 p.m. with their parents. Registration will happen in October. Questions? Contact Laura Lucht at 616-638-2406 or email her at rocketkeep10@hotmail.com.

Men, join us on Saturday, September 19 at 8:00 a.m. for breakfast as our men's ministry evolves. The main focus of this new men's group is support for our youth to attend the National Gathering and for kids going to church camp. Sign up for the first gathering at one of our information stations.

The **Listening for the Word** book group resumes on Sunday, September 27 at 6:00 p.m., meeting every other week for six weeks. They will read and discuss "The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry" by John Comer, a book about hurrying, technology effects, and restoring balance in life. If you would like to join, see either Sandra Fluharty or Jan Naymick (231-744-5601).

Be sure to **check out our bulletin board** for information about our own **Sandy Hutchin's yoga classes** and **massage therapy** business. Let's be sure to show her our support in her new endeavors!

Choir practice resumes on Tuesday, September 15 at 6:30 p.m. **Bell choir resumes** on Sunday, September 20th after worship.

(more announcements on page 9)

Order of Service

“Paying it Forward”

Prelude

Hymn “Sing of the Lord’s Goodness” (page 8)

Greeting (screen)

Kyrie



C Lord have mer - cy; mer - cy, Christ have mer - cy.



Lord have mer - cy; mer - cy, Christ have mer - cy.

P God is rich in mercy. So great is God’s love for us, that even when we were dead in sin, with Christ, God has made us alive again. By grace you have been saved through faith.



C By grace, by grace, by grace we have been saved through faith.



By grace, by grace, by grace we have been saved through faith.



By grace, by grace, by grace we have been saved.

Hymn of Praise

(next page)

“Hymn of Praise”

Refrain



[C] We live for the praise of your glo - ry, your glo - ry that fills -



- ev - ery heav-en - ly place. — We live for the praise of your



Fine

glo - ry, and sing to your glo - ri - ous grace.



1. God of pow'r and glo - ry, cre - a - tor of all things, so
2. O liv - ing Christ, God raised you with pow - er from the dead. From
3. O God, so rich in mer - cy, you've cho - sen us in love. The



in - fi-nite your wis-dom and your plan be - yond im - a - gin - ing. Your
age to age you rule with love the Church, your bod - y, you our head. With
Spir - it seals your prom-ise, our re - demp - tion bought with Je - sus' blood. We



pow'r can-not be meas-ured in all of time and space, yet,
pow - er and do - min - ion you reign at God's right hand, and
wor - ship you, we bless you, we praise you for your grace, for



Refrain

you, to us, pro - claimed your peace, the word of truth, a gift of grace.
in the name of Je - sus Christ all heav'n and earth, u - nit - ed, stand.
we, no long - er strang - ers, now, to - geth - er, are your dwell-ing place.

Salutation/Prayer of the Day

Special Music

“Joy Above Fear”

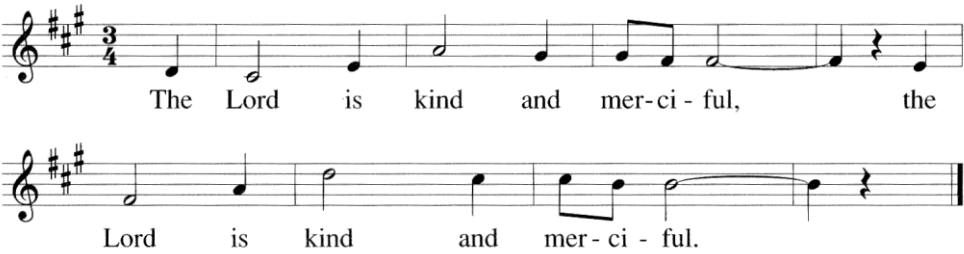
The Werlings

First Reading

Genesis 50:15-21

Psalm 103

Refrain



Second Reading **Romans 14:1-12**

Gospel Verse “Where Two or Three Are Gathered” (screen)

Gospel Reading **Matthew 18:21-35**

Children’s Message/Junior Church/Summer Bible Adventure
This week’s noisy offering will be used for building repairs and maintenance.

Hymn **“Create in Me a Clean Heart”** **#35 (purple)**

Sermon

Hymn **“Amazing Grace My Chains Are Gone”** **(screen)**

The Apostles’ Creed **(screen)**

Announcements/Prayers/Peace

Offering/Offertory Prayer

Great Thanksgiving **(screen)**

Holy, Holy **(screen)**

The Lord’s Prayer **(screen)**

Communion
“All Are Welcome” **(screen)**
“Lamb of God” **#83 (purple)**
“Change My Heart, O God” **#801 (red)**
“Here Is Bread” **#483 (red)**
“There is a Redeemer” **#140 (purple)**

Blessing

Post-Communion Song “We the Children of Light”



1. We, the chil-dren of light, _ go forth with a song in our hearts.
2. We, the chil-dren of light, _ go forth with the gos-pel of peace.
3. We, the chil-dren of light, _ go forth with a word of new life. _



We, the chil-dren of light, _ go forth with a song in our hearts.
We, the chil-dren of light, _ go forth with the gos-pel of peace.
We, the chil-dren of light, _ go forth with a word of new life. _



Filled with the Spir - it and marked with the sign, thank - ful to God in the
En - e - mies wel - comed as chil - dren of God, the wound-ed are healed by the
Sleep - er a - wake now and rise from the dead, the light of the Sav - ior will



name of Christ, the chil-dren of light go forth with a song in our hearts.
blood of Christ, the chil-dren of light go forth with the gos-pel of peace.
shine on you, the chil-dren of light go forth with a word of new life. _

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Post-Communion Prayer

Benediction/Dismissal (10:30) “Go in Peace” (screen)

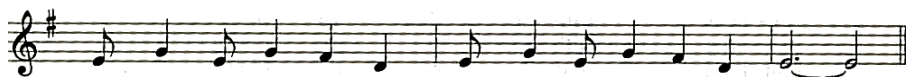
“Sing of the Lord’s Goodness”



- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Sing of the Lord's good-ness, | Fa - ther of all wis-dom, |
| 2. Pow - er he has wield-ed, | hon - or is his gar-ment, |
| 3. Cour - age in our dark-ness, | com-fort in our sor-row, |
| 4. Praise him with your sing-ing, | praise him with the trum-pet, |



come to him and bless his name.	Mer - cy he has shown us,
ris - en from the snares of death.	His word he has spo - ken,
Spir - it of our God most high;	sol - ace for the wea - ry,
praise God with the lute and harp;	praise him with the cym-bals,



his love is for ev - er,	faith - ful to the end of days.
one bread he has bro-ken,	new life he now gives to all.
par - don for the sin-ner,	splen-dor of the liv-ing God.
praise him with your danc-ing,	praise God till the end of days.



Come, then, all you na - tions, sing of your Lord's good - ness,



mel - o - dies of praise and thanks to God.



Ring out the Lord's glo - ry, praise him with your mu - sic,



wor - ship him and bless his name.

Announcements

We would love to **stay connected to our college age students!** If your child (young adult) is attending a college or trade school locally or out- of-town, please provide us with their current address. AND...if you are interested in writing a note or sending a small care package to our students, see or contact Paula, 231-343-2644 or paula@firstlutheranmuskegon.org.

Ladies! If you are interested in attending our **synod's Fall Gathering**, on Saturday, September 26, from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. please contact Paula. The event will be held at Evergreen Resort, 7880 Mackinaw Trail, Cadillac, MI. The cost is \$25.00. A registration form is required.

The local **Habitat for Humanity** affiliate is building three houses, which are located on Catherine Street in Muskegon. Volunteers are needed. Contact Kent Johnson at 231-670-7758 if you would like to help.

Our next **Highway Cleanup** is scheduled for Saturday, September 26. Meet at the church at 10:00 a.m. Bags and 'grabbers' will be provided.

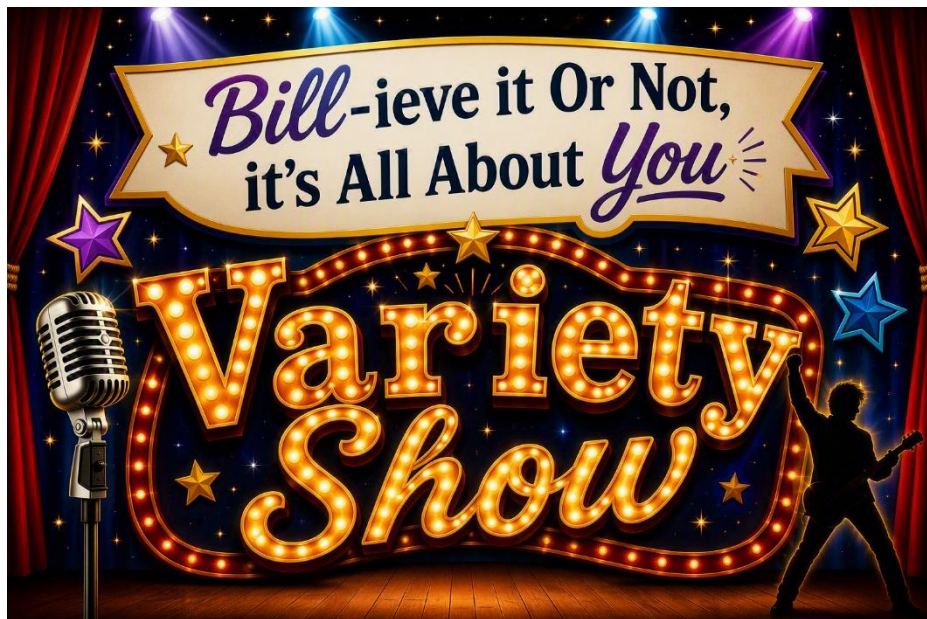
Sign up at the information station if you would like to go to **Meijer Gardens** on Thursday, September 24th for the **Chihuly Glass exhibit**. Look for information on our website and see Deb Roest or Diane Kroll for more information.

Coffee hour hosts are needed. Sign up at the information station near office.

Middle school and High School Youth: Kick off fall around our fire pit on Sunday, September 27 at 6:00 p.m. with some fellowship and devotion, as well as planning for the upcoming year. S'mores, hot dogs and beverages will be provided. Questions? See Jeff or Laura Lucht.

The **end of the summer** has become a time of year when the church **faces financial struggles**. Please remember our church with your generous gifts.

Save the Date!
You Don't Want to Miss This!



- When? Friday, October 9th
- Time: 6:00 p.m.
- Where? Family Life Center
- Price is Free!

Look for sign-up sheets at either information station if you would like to attend. There will also be sign-ups asking for folks to bring hors d'oeuvres and desserts.

This show is going to be retrospective of Pastor Bill's years here at First Lutheran, including his internship. The celebration will be "All About Bill"!

THOSE WHO SERVE 09/10 and 09/13

Assisting Minister	Kathryn Hall
Lector Thurs. 6:00 p.m.	Chris Patterson
Lector Sun.10:00 a.m.	Laura Lucht
Servers Sun.10:00 a.m.	Emily and Elizabeth Lucht
Acolytes Sun.10:00 a.m.	Peyton Mock
Head Usher	Kent Johnson
Ushers Sun.10:00 a.m.	John Arter, Larry Bringedahl Stan Daszko
Junior Church	Susan Besteman
Song Leaders	Mark Thogerson, Barb Elliott
Sound System	Mark Besteman
Information Stations	Connie Larson, Robin Policka
Counters	Diane Kroll, Val Barnes
Communion Bread	Connie Larson
Communion Set-Up	Connie Larson
Clean-Up Sun.10:00 a.m.	Connie Larson
Coffee Hour Host	Church Picnic
Building Lockers	Outreach Ministry
Bus Driver Pick Up, Drop Off	Amber Thomas

THOSE WHO SERVE 09/17 and 09/20

Assisting Minister	Joel Westerholm
Lector Thurs. 6:00 p.m.	Bill Patterson
Lector Sun.10:00 a.m.	Piper Sweet
Servers Sun.10:00 a.m.	Larry Bringedahl, Tara Plekes
Acolytes Sun.10:00 a.m.	Open
Head Usher	Jeff Cooke
Ushers Sun.10:00 a.m.	Ben Werling, Phil Sielski Open
Junior Church	Emma Johnston
Song Leaders	Mary Schoonover, Emily Traub
Sound System	Jeff Thomas
Information Stations	Stan Daszko, Carol Parker
Counters	Sandra Fluharty, Diana Duell
Communion Bread	Kim Westerholm
Communion Set-Up	Kim Westerholm
Clean-Up Sun.10:00 a.m.	Kim Westerholm
Coffee Hour Host	Open
Building Lockers	Fellowship Ministry
Bus Driver Pick Up, Drop Off	Amber Thomas

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

	Activity	Location
Sunday 09/13/2026		
9:15 a.m.	Faith Formation	Lower Music Room Sanctuary & Online Family Life Center First Floor Education Room
9:15 a.m.	Confirmation	
9:15 a.m.	Youth Choir	
10:30 a.m.	Worship	
12:00 p.m.	Church Picnic	
7:00 p.m.	AA	
Monday 09/14/2026 Office Closed All Day		
12:00 p.m.	Quilt Group	Quilt Room
4:30 p.m.	P.E.O. Group	Narthex
6:00 p.m.	Overeaters Anonymous	Gallery
7:00 p.m.	AA Meeting	First Floor Education Room
7:00 p.m.	Cardio Drum Class	Family Life Center
Tuesday 09/15/2026 Bulletin Deadline		
9:00 a.m.	Pickleball	Family Life Center
9:00 a.m.	SHOP Group	Gallery
11:30 a.m.	Muskegon County Garden Club	Fellowship Hall
6:00 p.m.	Lion's Club Meeting	Fellowship Hall
6:00 p.m.	Grief Share Group	Gallery
6:30 p.m.	Choir	Upper Music Room
8:00 p.m.	Lion's Club Board Meeting	Gallery
9:00 p.m.	Compline	Facebook
Wednesday 09/16/2026		
9:00 a.m.	Pickleball	Family Life Center
12:00 p.m.	Staff Meeting	Gallery
Thursday 09/17/2026		
12:00 p.m.	Bible Study	Gallery
4:00 p.m.	Burnished Brass Rehearsal	Sanctuary
6:00 p.m.	Worship	Sanctuary
7:00 p.m.	Cardio Drum Class	Family Life Center
Friday 09/18/2026		Women's Retreat
5:00 p.m.	Set Up for Saturday Rental	Family Life Center
6:00 p.m.	Crafty Group	Gallery
7:00 p.m.	AA Meeting	First Floor Education Room
Saturday 09/19/2026		
8:00 a.m.	Men's Group	Fellowship Hall
10:30 a.m.	Rental – Rachel Clark	Family Life Center, Kitchen

Readings for Next Weekend

(for 09-20-26)

First Reading

Jonah 3:10—4:11

Psalm

Psalm 145:1-8

Second Reading

Philippians 1:21-30

Gospel Reading

Matthew 20:1-16