

FIRST READING. Deuteronomy 30:15-20

See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the Lord your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the Lord swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

SECOND READING. Philemon 1-21

Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, To Philemon our dear friend and co-worker, to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow-soldier, and to the church in your house: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith towards the Lord Jesus. I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother. For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do your duty, yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man, and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful both to you and to me. I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be of service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel; but I preferred to do nothing without your consent, in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back for ever, no longer as a slave but as more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord. So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. If he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

GOSPEL. Luke 14:25-33

Now large crowds were travelling with him; and he turned and said to them, 'Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, saying, "This fellow began to build and was not able to finish." Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.

16th Sunday after Pentecost



September 4, 2016

16th Sunday after Pentecost
September 4, 2016
9:30 a.m.

First Lutheran Church
Fergus Falls, Minnesota
(218) 739-3348

Online
Giving
(QR Code)



www.firstlutheranchurchff.org

firstlc@live.com

At the end of today's gospel reading, Jesus says, "none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions." Really, Jesus? All of them? This is a hard word for us. What does it mean for us to give it all up – and give it to God?

Prelude

Announcements

***Brief Order for Confession and Forgiveness**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, the only Sovereign, who dwells in light; Christ Jesus, who came to save sinners; the Holy Spirit, who lives within us.

C: Amen.

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

P: God of overflowing grace,

C: we come to you with repentant hearts. Forgive us for shallow thankfulness. Forgive us for passing by the ones in need. Forgive us for setting our hopes on fleeting treasures. Forgive us our neglect and thoughtlessness. Bring us home from the wilderness of sin, and strengthen us to serve you in all that we do and say; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

P: There is joy in heaven over every sinner who repents. By the grace of God in ☩ Christ Jesus, who gave himself up for us all, your sins are forgiven and you are made free. Rejoice with the angels and with one another! We are home in God's mercy, now and forever.

C: Amen.

***Opening Hymn**

Morning Has Broken

ELW 556

***Apostolic Greeting**

This Week at First Lutheran:

Today:	9:30 a.m.	Worship/Holy Communion
Monday:	5:00 p.m.	Al-Anon
Tuesday:	9:00 a.m.	Staff meeting
Wednesday:	9:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m.	Al-Anon AA
Thursday:	8:45 am 9:30 a.m.	Morning Watch – Pr. Jennifer – KBRF AM 1250 Sr Bible Study & Coffee
Friday:	Church Office Closed	
Saturday:	Church Office Closed	

Next Sunday, September 11: RALLY SUNDAY!

8:30 & 11 a.m.	Worship/Holy Communion
9:30 a.m.	First Day of Sunday School



Join the Senior Choir and all your dreams will come true and.....vote for Pedro!

1st rehearsal Sept 7, 7:30 pm

Associate Pastor:	Jennifer Rose
Visitation Pastor:	Stan Satre
Council President:	Elizabeth Abrahams
Organist:	Keith Melberg
Communion Assistants:	Duane & Bonnie Gran, Dolores Simdorn
Ushers:	Kris, Sara, Alison, Emilie & Ben Koch
Cantor:	Cyntreya Lockett
Greeters:	Karen Lundstrom & Leonard Hatzenbuhler
Acolytes:	Andreyia Lockett, Sydney Batzlaff
Lector:	Missy Mattson
P.A. Operator:	Paul Dimke

Join the congregation on September 18th at 12:00p.m.

in celebrating and appreciating our Senior Pastor, Saul Stensvaag, for 17 years of service to our church, and his lovely wife & talented Children's Choir Director, Mary Kay, and their son, Ken, who has been actively involved with the youth of our congregation, as they say goodbye to this chapter and hello to the next.

Bring a dish & fond memories to share, dessert will be served by our Fellowship Committee.



*Kyrie

P: In peace, in peace,

Assistant: Congregation:

Let us pray to the Lord, have mer - cy,
Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have
mer - cy.

P: For the reign of God, and for peace throughout the world, for the unity of all ... (Refrain)

P: For your people here, who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your Word ... (Refrain)

Assistant: Congregation:

Help, save and de - fend us, O God.
A - - - men.

***Hymn of Praise**

Now the Feast

Refrain

Congregation:

Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion,
 all of cre - a - tion sings for joy
 to the God of life and love and
 free - dom: praise and glo - ry for ev -
 er - more!

Verse 1:

Congregation or Congregation 1:

1. Now is the feast of the Lamb once
 slain. whose blood has freed and u -
 nit - ed us to be one great
 To refrain
 peo - ple / of God.

Verse 2

Congregation or Congregation 2:

Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and
 might, all hon - or and glo - ry to Christ
 To refrain
 for ev - er.

Join Us for Fellowship and Refreshments in the narthex following worship. Serving this week is Dale & Laurie Whitehead.

Altar Flowers & Radio Broadcast is sponsored by Orrie & Dalyce Leabo in celebration of their wedding anniversary.

Large Print Bulletins are available. If you would like a copy, please ask an usher.

Visitors! If you didn't get a "Visitors Bag" when you came in this morning please pick one up on your way out after worship. You'll find them in a basket located on the small table on the ramp coming up from the narthex into the sanctuary.



COFFEE AND CHOCOLATE: WOW (women of the word) invites you to a delicious event on **Sunday, October 16 at 2:00 pm.** Our speakers will be Jenny Stumbo of Stumbeano's coffee and Kristin Mohagen of Terroir Chocolates. These local entrepreneurs will share their stories of "two of our favorite things"!! Mark your calendars and join us for an afternoon of delightful decadence!



There is an opportunity to help out a lifelong community member during a time of medical need. The public is being asked to help out Mark Boen and family with Bluebird Gardens in 4 hour shifts as you are able. Call Lorri at [\(218\) 731-6579](tel:2187316579) for details and to sign up to help at the farm. Thank you in advance for your help!

Parents of Sunday school students: Please alert us to any changes in health concerns that your student has regarding allergies, injuries or needs, so that we may properly care for your child while attending Sunday school. There is a form you can fill out in our September Messenger, a health form (pink) in the church office, or you can call the office at (218)739-3348.

First rehearsal: Sept 7th @ 7:30 pm
 in the choir rehearsal room
 Enter through west door, lower parking lot.

.ATTENTION OWLS: Wednesday, October 19, we will travel by coach to see "Camelot" at the Chanhassen Dinner Theater. Coach loads at 8:45 a.m. (lower level First Lutheran parking lot)and *departs at 9:00 a.m.* Cost per person, is \$60.00—that includes dinner, show, tax and gratuity. Coach paid by OWLS account. Plan to *return to Fergus around 7 p.m.* No stops on trip home. **Sign up and pay \$60 by check** (payable to First Lutheran OWLS) **before October 10.** Friends welcome!! Questions?? Call Margaret Kratzke @ 218-736-3697

Lutheran World Relief School Kit collection has begun in the Narthex. Thank you for your help and support. Fill the container we have supplied with the following items:

- 4 tablets 8 ½"x11" ruled spiral notebook, of 70 sheets in each
- 1 30 cm metric ruler (inches on one side, cm on the other side)
- 1 eraser 2 ½" long (approximately)
- 1 pencil sharpener
- 1 blunt scissor
- 1 box of crayons (16-24 count)

***Gospel Acclamation**

Congregation:

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we
go? You have the words of e - ter - nal
life. Al - le - lu - ia!

(Congregational response sung after Gospel is announced: **Glory to you, O Lord.**)

***Gospel**

Luke 14:25-33

Jesus speaks frankly about the fearsome costs of discipleship. Those who follow him should know from the outset that completing the course of discipleship will finally mean renouncing all other allegiances.

(Congregational response after Gospel is read: **Praise to you, O Christ**)

Sermon

Extravagant Generosity

Pastor Jennifer

Hymn of the Day

How Firm a Foundation

ELW 796

***The Apostles' Creed**

Back Cover of ELW Hymnal

*** Prayers of the Church**

P: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

P: ... Lord, in your mercy, or ... Let us pray to the Lord.

C: hear our prayer. Lord, have mercy.

***The PEACE is shared**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

Offering

***Offertory**

Refrain
Congregation:

As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill : were
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread;
so may all your peo-ple from all the ends of earth be
gath - ered in - to one in you.

Verses

1. As this cup of bless - ing is shared with - in our midst,
2. Let this be a fore - taste of all that is to come when

To refrain

may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

*** Words of Institution**

***The Lord's Prayer**

C 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

Distribution of Holy Communion

Hymns during Communion:

ELW 838, 707

*** Post-Communion Blessing**