



Welcome to First Lutheran Church

309 Second Street North, PO Box 21, Pine River, MN 56474

Church Office: 587-2316

www.1stluth.org

5th Sunday in Lent

April 6, 2025

Welcome and Announcements *(Please pass the attendance pad along the pew. If you are a visitor, please include your mailing address.)*

Opening Hymn: “Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus” (ELW 802)*(on back page)*

*Confession & Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God’s abiding love.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate One,
**you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love,
but our lives do not always reflect you
and your love for the world.**

**We do not show others the tender compassion
you have shown to us.**

**We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality
you grant to all people.**

**We oppress others,
even though you have set us free again and again.**

We squander the abundant gifts of the earth.

**Transform our lives
and guide us again in the way of the cross.**

Amen.

Beloved in Christ,
God’s arms are always stretched open wide
to welcome the wandering ones home.

In ✝ Christ your sins are forgiven.

You have a place in God’s house forever.

Amen.

Prayer of the Day

Creator God, you prepare a new way in the wilderness, and your grace waters our desert. Open our hearts to be transformed by the new thing you are doing, that our lives may proclaim the extravagance of your love given to all through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 43:16-21

¹⁶ Thus says the LORD,
 who makes a way in the sea,
 a path in the mighty waters,
¹⁷ who brings out chariot and horse,
 army and warrior;
they lie down; they cannot rise;
 they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:
¹⁸ Do not remember the former things
 or consider the things of old.
¹⁹ I am about to do a new thing;
 now it springs forth; do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
 and rivers in the desert.
²⁰ The wild animals will honor me,
 the jackals and the ostriches,
for I give water in the wilderness,
 rivers in the desert,
to give drink to my chosen people,
²¹ the people whom I formed for myself
so that they might declare my praise.

Psalm 126

¹ When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,
 then were we like those who dream.
² **Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and
our tongue with shouts of joy.
 Then they said among the nations,
“The LORD has done great things for them.”**
³ The LORD has done great things for us,
 and we are glad indeed.

⁴ **Restore our fortunes, O LORD,
 like the watercourses¹ of the Negeb.**
⁵ Those who sowed with tears
 will reap with songs of joy.
⁶ **Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed,
 will come again with joy, shouldering their
sheaves.**



Second Reading: Philippians 3:4b-14

[Paul writes:] ^{4b} If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

⁷ Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸ More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹² Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal, but I press on to lay hold of that for which Christ has laid hold of me. ¹³ Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I have laid hold of it, but one thing I have laid hold of: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal, toward the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

*Gospel Announcement

The Holy Gospel according to John.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: John 12:1-8

¹ Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ² There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those reclining with him. ³ Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus's feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. ⁴ But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, ⁵ "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" ⁶ (He said this not because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) ⁷ Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. ⁸ You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

"The Gospel of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Children's Message

Pastor Hans Anderson

Message- "Valley of Shadows"

Pastor Hans Anderson



Song of the Day: "Abide with Me" (ELW 629)

1 A - bide with me, fast falls the e - ven - tide.
 2 Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day;
 3 I need thy pres - ence ev - 'ry pass - ing hour;
 4 I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;
 5 Hold thou thy cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes,

The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide.
 earth's joys grow dim, its glo - ries pass a - way;
 what but thy grace can foil the tempt - er's pow'r?
 ills have no weight, and tears no bit - ter - ness.
 shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;

When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,
 change and de - cay in all a - round I see;
 Who like thy - self my guide and stay can be?
 Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy vic - to - ry?
 heav'n's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain shad - ows flee;

help of the help - less, oh, a - bide with me.
 O thou who chang - est not, a - bide with me.
 Through cloud and sun - shine, oh, a - bide with me.
 I tri - umph still, if thou a - bide with me!
 in life, in death, O Lord, a - bide with me.

Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793-1847
 Music: William H. Monk, 1823-1889

Public Domain

***Statement of Faith – The Apostles’ Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again 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 People:**

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

The church declares your praise, O God. Guide us in the example of Isaiah’s imagination, Paul’s transformed identity, and Mary’s faith and devotion; that our lives, too, may be poured out in love as we trust in your promises. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

The earth declares your praise, O God. Make a way for the planet’s future in the sea and the wilderness, the mountains and plains, the tundra and wetlands. Repair habitats and sustainable ecosystems on, above, and beneath the ground. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

The nations declare your praise, O God. Where religious differences divide, bring together those who worship you in the name of Jesus Christ and those who call to you with different names. Guide interreligious dialogue, that faith may unite rather than divide communities. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

The people declare your praise, O God. Restore those whose hope has been dampened through a health diagnosis, job or home loss, divorce, or death. Bring healing to those in need. May all who weep now sing songs of joy again. We pray for the following.....God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

The gifts of the Spirit declare your praise, O God. We thank you for artists who proclaim the gospel Inspire music, poetry, and images that proclaim the new thing you are doing. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.

Amen.



Offering

*Offertory Prayer

Gracious Provider,
you set your immense treasures among us,
opening your heart to the world.
As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love,
deepen our commitment to sharing those
treasures with others,
through our Savior, Jesus Christ.
Amen.

What is Holy Communion?

What is a sacrament ? g.o.g.g.
c.b.c.
p.e.a.

Holy Communion is the _____ and _____.
of our Lord Jesus Christ
given with _____ and _____.
instituted by Christ himself for us
to _____ and _____.

Where do the scriptures say this?

Matthew, Mark, Luke, and Paul say:

Our Lord Jesus Christ, in the night in
which he was betrayed,
took bread: and when he had given thanks,
he broke it and gave it to his disciples,
saying, "Take, eat, this is my body,
which is given for you:
this do in remembrance of me."
After the same manner also he took the cup
after supper,
and when he had given thanks,
He gave it to them, saying,
"Drink of it, all of you;
this cup is the new testament in my blood,
Which is shed for you and for many, for the
remission of sins:
this do, as often as you drink it, in
remembrance of me."

What are the 4 other ways we can say Holy Communion?

1. Sacrament of the Altar
2. Eucharist
3. Lord's Supper
4. Last Supper

***Words of Institution**

***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;
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.**

† Communion †



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

Holy Communion Distribution at the rail

Babies N Bibles & Club 45 go upstairs to the Nursery

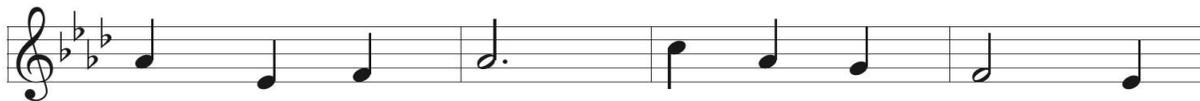
Post Communion Prayer

**Generous Host,
you have shared your feast with us and made us new.
Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities,
that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom,
in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

***Blessing:**

God our tender parent,
God the crucified one,
God the reconciling Spirit,
✠ bless you now and forever.
Amen.

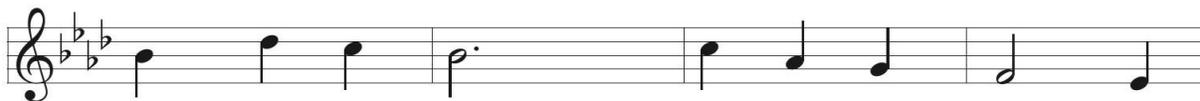
***Sending Hymn: "God's Work, Our Hands" ACS1000)**



1 God's work, our hands: work - ing to - geth - er,
2 God's work, our feet: trav - 'ling to - geth - er,
3 God's work, our voice: sing - ing to - geth - er,
4 God is at work in and a - round us:



build - ing a fu - ture, re - pair - ing the world,
fol - low - ing Je - sus to plac - es un - known,
prais - ing, pro - claim - ing to all who will hear,
seed - lings are sprout - ing and bread's on the rise!



rais - ing up homes, plant - ing new gar - dens,
walk - ing as friends, march - ing for free - dom,
pray - ing for peace, shout - ing for jus - tice,
Washed and set free, hum - bled and hon - ored,



feed - ing the hun - gry and shelt - 'ring the cold.
run - ning the race with God's fu - ture the goal.
claim - ing God's love for the lost and the least.
gift - ed by grace, we re - spond in God's love.



Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,
Bless, God, our feet as we fol - low your way,
Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,
Bless, God, our lives as we an - swer your call,



shar - ing the good news of your Gos - pel.

***Dismissal:**

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

Thanks be to God!



Reader:
Communion Server:
Zoom: Cora Hohnstadt
Sound: Val Johnson
Ushers: Paul Pearson
Altar Guild: Annette Newton & Gloria Johnson
Coffee: Annette Newton
Counter: Irene Gearey

The Week Ahead

Sunday, April 6, 2025

5th Sunday in Lent

Worship Service 9:00 AM

Babies N Bibles and Club 45 following communion

Fellowship & Coffee Time 10:00 AM

Wednesday, April 9, 2025

SOUP SUPPER 5:00 PM

Lenten Service 6:00 PM

Sunday, April 13, 2025

Palm Sunday

Worship Service 9:00 AM

Babies N Bibles and Club 45 following communion

Fellowship & Coffee Time 10:00 AM

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
Pancake Breakfast FUNDRAISER
ADULTS - \$12.00
KIDS - \$6.00 (12 & UNDER)
SUNDAY, APRIL 6th
9:00 - NOON
BRING THE FAMILY
Pancakes (all you can eat)
Scrambled Eggs
Sausage
Juice
Coffee
Fraser-Nelson American Legion Unit 613
400 Front Street, Pine River, MN 56474
218-587-9151

Announcements

To view **Sunday Services** via Zoom, go to www.zoom.us and select the blue “Join a Meeting” link at the top center of your screen. Type in the following Meeting ID number and click the blue “Join” button.

Sunday worship, 9:00 a.m. – Meeting ID 893 3233 9261 Passcode: 053380

Bulletins can be sponsored for \$25.00 per week. The sign-up sheet is on the *Called to Serve* bulletin board in the Narthex.

Lenten Soup Suppers

Our final soup supper for 2025 is April 9, at 5:00 PM. The sign up sheet for volunteers and food donations is posted in the narthex.

Please join us!

A Lenten Stewardship Project

First Lutheran Church Women will be collecting donations of bars of soap.

The collection box will be in the church narthex. Donations can be given anytime the church is open. The bars of soap collected will be given to the My Little Church, the Tiger’s Den Food Shelf and the Pine River Backus Food Shelf.



FLCW continues to collect used eyeglasses for donation to the Minnesota Lions Club. Accepted are eyeglasses (frames with lenses intact), non-prescription eyeglasses and reading glasses. (no lenses without frames or frames without lenses please). The basket for these donations is on the small table as you come in the side door by the Seek Him Room.

Out to Lunch Bunch will be gathering on April 22. We will meet in the church parking lot at 11:00 AM and carpool to: Lake’s Tavern in Pequot Lakes. Please join us!

SCHOLARSHIPS: Current college students and high school graduates as well as any members planning on being in a post-secondary program next year are encouraged to apply for church scholarships. If you have received a scholarship in the past, you can apply again; but you must submit a new application to be considered. If you are a college student who has not applied previously you can apply for next year. Application forms can be picked up at the church office or mailed to you. To ensure that your application receives equal consideration for the available funds, it is important that it be *returned to the church office by April 18.*

**** Remember, the only way to receive a scholarship is to apply.**

Dear Families with younger children: we enthusiastically welcome you and your growing family to celebrate the worship service with us. *Please relax.* We understand that God put the wiggle in children and we want them to feel welcome -- it’s their church, too! Be sure to participate in the service as kids learn how to “do” church by watching you. Quiet activity bags are available in the back of the church. Talk about church at home and in the car and address any curiosities children have.

Finally, **THANK YOU** for joining us -- we know it takes a lot of hard work and effort to get here.!

Prayers of Healing, Care and Joy

Those with medical concerns...

Caleb Prushek, great nephew of Jane Orth

Cleone Hoplin

Grace Anderson



Those in the service...

Senior Master Sergeant Bradford, son of Bill & Kaye Schroeder

Major A.J. Depman, nephew of Bill & Kaye Schroeder

Sgt Christopher Krecklau, son of Mary & Randy Krecklau

E-6 Nathaniel & E-6 Amanda Mitchell, nephew of Mary & Randy Krecklau

ATTENDANCE & OFFERING

Sunday, Mar. 30, 2025

Attendance: 80

Offering

Mar. 30, 2025	\$1,978.00	Weekly Budget:	\$3,301.40
Direct Deposit:	\$ 75.00		
Total Offerings:	\$2,053.00		

Year-to-Date (Fiscal year starts September 1)

2024-2025 Giving:	\$94,477.67	Expenses:	\$87,425.91
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Income less Expenses for February:

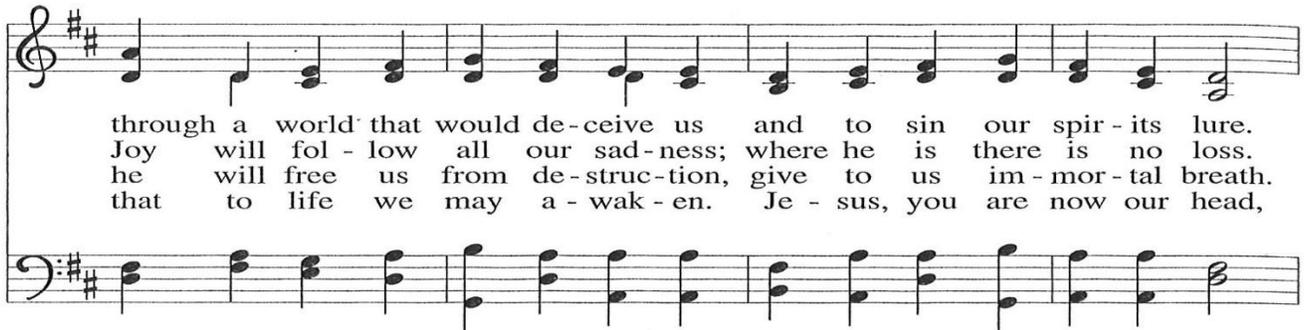
$\$12,034.00 - \$12,639.41 = (-\$605.41)$

If you would like a visit from pastor or have a pastoral care need, please contact Pastor Hans Anderson at 218-820-9166 or email him at pastorhanspineriver@gmail.com

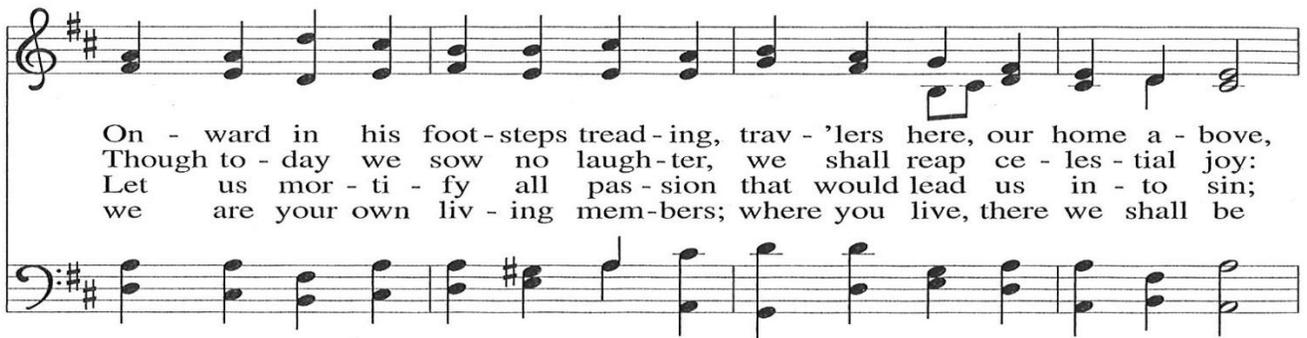
Opening Hymn: "Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus "



1 Let us ev - er walk with Je - sus, fol - low his ex - am - ple pure,
 2 Let us suf - fer here with Je - sus, and with pa - tience bear our cross.
 3 Let us glad - ly die with Je - sus. Since by death he con - quered death,
 4 Let us al - so live with Je - sus. He has ris - en from the dead



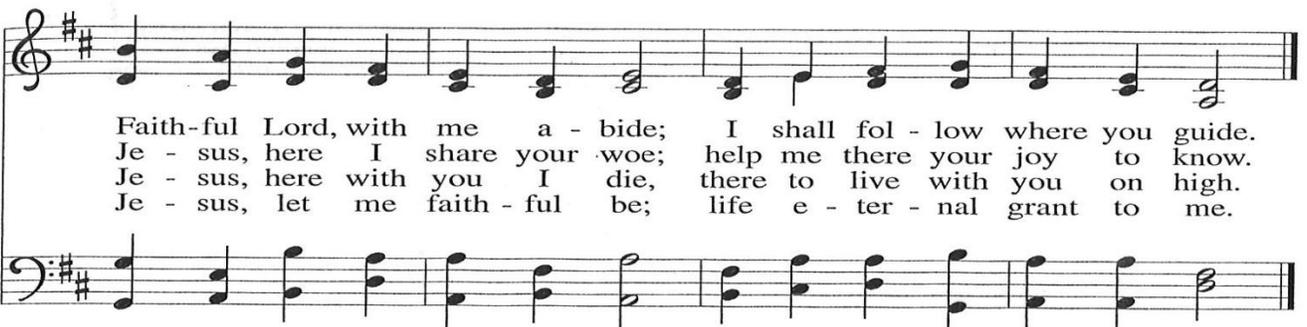
through a world that would de - ceive us and to sin our spir - its lure.
 Joy will fol - low all our sad - ness; where he is there is no loss.
 he will free us from de - struc - tion, give to us im - mor - tal breath.
 that to life we may a - wak - en. Je - sus, you are now our head,



On - ward in his foot - steps tread - ing, trav - 'lers here, our home a - bove,
 Though to - day we sow no laugh - ter, we shall reap ce - les - tial joy:
 Let us mor - ti - fy all pas - sion that would lead us in - to sin;
 we are your own liv - ing mem - bers; where you live, there we shall be



full of faith and hope and love, let us do our Sav - ior's bid - ding.
 all dis - com - forts that an - noy shall give way to mirth here - af - ter.
 and the grave that shuts us in shall but prove the gate of heav - en.
 in your pres - ence con - stant - ly, liv - ing there with you for - ev - er.



Faith - ful Lord, with me a - bide; I shall fol - low where you guide.
 Je - sus, here I share your woe; help me there your joy to know.
 Je - sus, here with you I die, there to live with you on high.
 Je - sus, let me faith - ful be; life e - ter - nal grant to me.