

# Welcome to First Lutheran Church

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

Church Office: 587-2316

[www.1stluth.org](http://www.1stluth.org)

First Sunday in Lent

February 22, 2026

**Welcome and Announcements** (*Guests please sign the visitor's book in the narthex*)

**Opening Song:** "This is My Father's World" (ELW 824)

1 This is my Fa-ther's world, and to my lis-t'ning ears all  
2 This is my Fa-ther's world; the birds their car-ols raise; the  
3 This is my Fa-ther's world; oh, let me not for-get that,  
na - ture sings, and round me rings the mu - sic of the spheres.  
morn - ing light, the lil - y white, de - clare their mak - er's praise.  
though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the rul - er yet.

This is my Fa-ther's world; I rest me in the thought of  
This is my Fa-ther's world; he shines in all that's fair. In the  
This is my Fa-ther's world; why should my heart be sad? The

rocks and trees, of skies and seas; his hand the won - ders wrought.  
rus - tling grass I hear him pass; he speaks to me ev'-ry-where.  
Lord is king, let heav - en ring; God reigns, let earth be glad!

Text: Maltbie D. Babcock, 1858-1901  
Music: Franklin L. Sheppard, 1852-1930, adapt.

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### **\*Confession and Forgiveness**

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

**Amen.**

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For failing to recognize your coming reign,

and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition,

and for disdain the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For disregarding voices from the margin,

and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world:

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent,

and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life:

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound.

Through faith, the free gift of God,

you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead

dwells in you,

pours God's love into your hearts,

and gives you life and peace.

**Amen.**

### **Prayer of the Day**

**Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us 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:** Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

<sup>15</sup> The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. <sup>16</sup> And the Lord God commanded the man, “You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, <sup>17</sup> but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.”

<sup>3:1</sup> Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God say, ‘You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?’” <sup>2</sup> The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, <sup>3</sup> but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.’ ” <sup>4</sup> But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die, <sup>5</sup> for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” <sup>6</sup> So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. <sup>7</sup> Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

**Psalm:** Psalm 32

<sup>1</sup> Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is <sup>1</sup> put away!

<sup>2</sup> **Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt, and in whose spirit there is no guile!**

<sup>3</sup> While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, because of my groaning all day long.

<sup>4</sup> **For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**

<sup>5</sup> Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt.

I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD.” Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

<sup>6</sup> **Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.**

<sup>7</sup> You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

<sup>8</sup> **“I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; I will guide you with my eye.**

<sup>9</sup> Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you.”

<sup>10</sup> **Great are the tribulations of the wicked; but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.**

<sup>11</sup> Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD; shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

**Second Reading:** Deuteronomy 8:2-3

<sup>2</sup> Remember the long way that the LORD your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, in order to humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commandments. <sup>3</sup> He humbled you by letting you hunger, then by feeding you with manna, with which neither you nor your ancestors were acquainted, in order to make you understand that one does not live by bread alone but by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.

## **\*Gospel Announcement**

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

### **\*Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11**

<sup>1</sup> Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. <sup>2</sup> He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. <sup>3</sup> The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” <sup>4</sup> But he answered, “It is written,

‘One does not live by bread alone,  
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ ”

<sup>5</sup> Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, <sup>6</sup> saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,

‘He will command his angels concerning you,’  
and ‘On their hands they will bear you up,  
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’ ”

<sup>7</sup> Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’ ”

<sup>8</sup> Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, <sup>9</sup> and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” <sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God,  
and serve only him.’ ”

<sup>11</sup> Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Children’s Sermon**

**Noisy Offering** – Heifer International



**\*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:**

Reconciled by God’s mercy and sustained by God’s presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

*A brief silence.*

God of all grace, grant faith to your church. Give to all the baptized the will to resist temptation and to worship and serve you alone. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of all creation, tend this earth. When human greed and disobedience threaten this planet and the life it contains, lead us by your Spirit into ways of reverence, awe, and gentleness. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of all nations, preserve us from trouble. Surround all living in places of violence with your steadfast love and give resilience to all who work for peace. Grant courage to those who challenge, especially around issues of racism and systemic oppression. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of all healing, mend our wounds. Bring wholeness to all who are sick, give peace to all who groan in grief, and send companions to all who are lonely or isolated. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of all people, provide  
for our community. For any among us who hunger for bread, bring nourishment. For any among us who hunger for truth, speak your life-giving word. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.

**Amen.**



Hymn of the Day: "For the Beauty of the Earth"(ELW 879) (*Offering will be taken at this time*)



1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the beau - ty of the skies,  
2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,  
3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,  
4 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,  
5 For each per - fect gift of thine, peace on earth and joy in heav'n;



for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:  
hill and vale and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light:  
for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight:  
friends on earth and friends a - bove; for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:  
for thy - self, best gift di - vine, to our world so free - ly giv'n:



*Refrain*



Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sac - ri - fice of praise.



Text: Folliott S. Pierpoint, 1835–1917, alt.  
Music: Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872

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### **\*Offertory Prayer**

O God, maker of heaven and earth,  
your steadfast love embraces all creation.  
You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth  
and bring forth its bounty.  
Through these gifts of bread and wine,  
draw us into the death and life of your Son,  
who calls us to bear witness to his saving work.  
We ask this in Jesus' name.  
Amen.

### **\*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 ✠**

### **Holy Communion Distribution**

### **\*Post Communion Prayer**

God of our salvation,  
we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls,  
reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey.  
Through the body and blood of your Son,  
may we become Christ's body in the world,  
bearing witness to your love for all creation,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
Amen.

### **\*Blessing:**

Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity:  
God, who calls all things into existence,  
Jesus Christ, who redeems us,  
and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation,  
✠ bless you now and always.  
Amen.



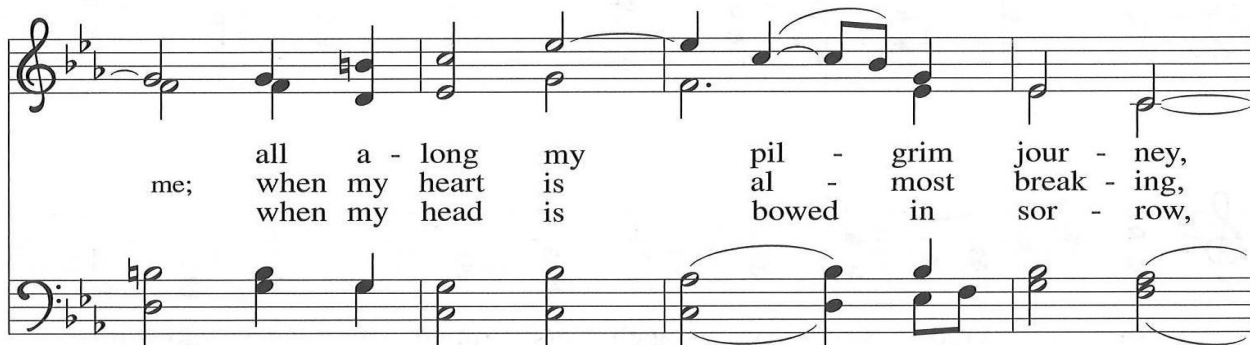
**Sending Song- "I Want Jesus to Walk with Me" (ELW 325)**



1 I want Je - sus to walk with me;  
2 In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me; walk with  
3 When I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;



me; I want Je - sus to walk with me;  
in my tri - als, Lord, walk with me; walk with  
when I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;



me; all a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,  
when my heart is al - most break - ing,  
when my head is bowed in sor - row,



Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.  
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me. walk with me.  
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.

**\*Dismissal:**

Go in peace. Believe the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**



**Reader:**

**Communion Assistants:**

**Zoom:**

Cora Hohnstadt

**Sound:**

Val Johnson

**Ushers:**

Paul Pearson & David Holtz

**Altar Guild:**

Rene Frigaard, Shawn & Pete Moeller

**Counter:**

Holly Knutson

## The Week Ahead

### Sunday, February 22, 2026

*First Sunday in Lent*

Worship Service

9:00 AM

Fellowship & Coffee Time

10:00 AM

### Wednesday, February 25, 2026

WOW

3:30 PM

Soup Supper

5:00 PM

Holden Evening Prayer

6:00 PM

### Sunday, March 1, 2026

*Second Sunday in Lent*

Worship Service

9:00 AM

Fellowship & Coffee Time

10:00 AM

#### ATTENDANCE & OFFERING

Sunday, Feb. 15, 2026

Attendance: 92

Offering Feb. 15, 2026 \$2,466.00 Weekly Budget: \$3,803.77

Direct Deposit: \$ 75.00

Total Offerings: \$2,541.00

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

2025-2026 Giving: \$76,600.17 Expenses: \$78,746.08

Income less Expenses for January:

\$12,869.36 - \$15,962.13 = (\$3,092.77)

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](mailto:pastorhanspineriver@gmail.com)



Vanco provides a secure and user-friendly way to give to our church online.

## Announcements

**Sunday Services** at First Lutheran continue to be in-person and via Zoom. To join us via Zoom, go to [www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us) and select the blue “Join a Meeting” link at the top center of your screen. (You won’t need to create an account.) Type in the appropriate Meeting ID number and click the blue “Join” button.

Sunday worship, 9:00 a.m. – Meeting ID is 823 8014 4799 Passcode is 661245.

**Bulletins** can be sponsored for \$25.00 per week. This week’s bulletin is sponsored by Anita Cadwell in honor of her family. Also, sponsored by Wendy Shamp and Sandy Heino in honor of mom, Lorraine Carter, who would have been 100 on February 23. The sign-up sheet is on the *Called to Serve* bulletin board in the Narthex.

Today’s **Noisy Offering** is going to Heifer International. Heifer International is a global nonprofit working to eradicate poverty and hunger through sustainable, values-based holistic community development. Heifer International distributes animals, along with agricultural and value-based training, to families in need around the world as a means of providing self-sufficiency.

**“Quiet Activity Bags”** are available for children’s use during worship. They are at the back of the sanctuary on the right-hand side.

**Sign-up** sheets are in the Narthex for providing soup, dessert, set up and clean up for our **Soup Suppers** starting on Ash Wednesday and continuing each Wednesday during Lent. Please help if you are able. Soup Supper is at 5:00 PM and the Service is at 6:00 PM each week.

**A Lenten Stewardship Project:** First Lutheran Church Women will be collecting donations of bars or pump bottles of soap. The collection box will be in the church narthex beginning February 18. Donations can be given anytime the church is open. The soap collected will be given to the Pine River Backus Food Shelf.

## Prayers of Healing, Care and Joy

### Those with medical concerns...

Madeleine Primmer

Ryan Kelley

Juliet Perry Stevens, Jodi Perry’s daughter, recovering from surgery

### 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 & Chief Amanda Mitchell, nephew of Mary & Randy Krecklau





## 2026 Lenten Wednesday Schedule

02/25/2026 Lent Soup 5:00 PM Worship 6:00 PM

03/04/2026 Lent Soup 5:00 PM Worship 6:00 PM

03/11/2026 Lent Soup 5:00 PM Worship 6:00 PM

03/18/2026 Lent Soup 5:00 PM Worship 6:00 PM

03/25/2026 Lent Soup 5:00 PM Worship 6:00 PM

# My Lent CHECKLIST

COLOR IN ONE SQUARE EACH DAY YOU COMPLETE YOUR LENTEN SACRIFICE AND COUNT DOWN UNTIL EASTER!

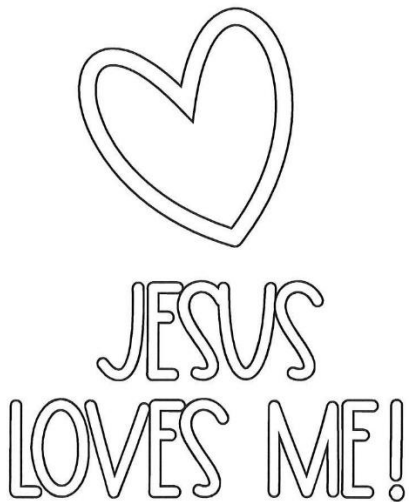
I WILL GIVE UP:



I WILL TAKE UP:



|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
|    |    |    |    | 1  | 2  |    |    |    |    |
|    |    |    |    | 3  | 4  |    |    |    |    |
|    |    |    |    | 5  | 6  |    |    |    |    |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 7  | 8  | 29 | 30 | 31 | 32 |
| 33 | 34 | 35 | 36 | 9  | 10 | 37 | 38 | 39 | 40 |
|    |    |    |    | 11 | 12 |    |    |    |    |
|    |    |    |    | 13 | 14 |    |    |    |    |
|    |    |    |    | 15 | 16 |    |    |    |    |
|    |    |    |    | 17 | 18 |    |    |    |    |
|    |    |    |    | 19 | 20 |    |    |    |    |
|    |    |    |    | 21 | 22 |    |    |    |    |
|    |    |    |    | 23 | 24 |    |    |    |    |



FOR GOD SO **LOVED**  
THE WORLD THAT  
HE GAVE HIS  
ONLY **SON**. JOHN 3:16

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_