

# 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)

Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 22, 2026

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

**Opening Song:** "Alas! And Did my Savior Bleed" (ELW 337)

1 A - las! And did my Sav - ior bleed, and did my sov-'reign die?  
2 Was it for sins that I had done he groaned up - on the tree?  
3 Well might the sun in dark - ness hide and shut its glo - ries in  
4 Thus might I hide my blush - ing face while his dear cross ap - pears,  
5 But tears of grief can - not re - pay the debt of love I owe;

Would he de - vote that sa - cred head for sin - ners such as I?  
A - maz - ing pit - y, grace un-known, and love be - yond de - gree!  
when God, the might - y mak - er, died for his own crea - tures' sin.  
dis - solve my heart in thank - ful - ness, and melt my eyes to tears.  
here, Lord, I give my - self a - way: 'tis all that I can do.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.  
Music: Hugh Wilson, 1764–1824

Public Domain

### **\*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 disdaining 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**

**Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you in righteousness all our days, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**Amen**

## First Reading: Ezekiel 37:1-14

<sup>1</sup> The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. <sup>2</sup> He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. <sup>3</sup> He said to me, “Mortal, can these bones live?” I answered, “O Lord GOD, you know.” <sup>4</sup> Then he said to me, “Prophecy to these bones and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. <sup>5</sup> Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. <sup>6</sup> I will lay sinews on you and will cause flesh to come upon you and cover you with skin and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the LORD.”

<sup>7</sup> So I prophesied as I had been commanded, and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. <sup>8</sup> I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them, but there was no breath in them. <sup>9</sup> Then he said to me, “Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.” <sup>10</sup> I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

<sup>11</sup> Then he said to me, “Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.’ <sup>12</sup> Therefore prophecy and say to them: Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people, and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. <sup>13</sup> And you shall know that I am the LORD when I open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people. <sup>14</sup> I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD.”

## Psalm: Psalm 130

<sup>1</sup> Out of the depths  
I cry to you, O LORD;  
<sup>2</sup> **O LORD, hear my voice!**  
**Let your ears be attentive to the voice of**  
**my supplication.**  
<sup>3</sup> If you were to keep watch over sins,  
O LORD, who could stand?  
<sup>4</sup> **Yet with you is forgiveness,**  
**in order that you may be feared.**  
<sup>5</sup> I wait for you, O LORD; my soul waits;  
in your word is my hope.

<sup>6</sup> **My soul waits for the Lord more than those**  
**who keep watch for the morning,**  
**more than those who keep watch for the**  
**morning.**  
<sup>7</sup> O Israel, wait for the LORD, for with  
the LORD there is steadfast love;  
with the LORD there is plenteous redemption.  
<sup>8</sup> **For the LORD shall redeem Israel**  
**from all their sins.**

## Second Reading: Romans 8:6-11

<sup>6</sup> To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup> For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God’s law—indeed, it cannot, <sup>8</sup> and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

<sup>9</sup> But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. <sup>10</sup> But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup> If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

## \*Gospel Announcement

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

## \*Gospel: John 11:1-45

<sup>1</sup> Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. <sup>2</sup> Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. <sup>3</sup> So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." <sup>4</sup> But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather, it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." <sup>5</sup> Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, <sup>6</sup> after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

<sup>7</sup> Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." <sup>8</sup> The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" <sup>9</sup> Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble because they see the light of this world. <sup>10</sup> But those who walk at night stumble because the light is not in them." <sup>11</sup> After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." <sup>12</sup> The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." <sup>13</sup> Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. <sup>14</sup> Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. <sup>15</sup> For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." <sup>16</sup> Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

<sup>17</sup> When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. <sup>18</sup> Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, <sup>19</sup> and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. <sup>20</sup> When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. <sup>21</sup> Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. <sup>22</sup> But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." <sup>23</sup> Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." <sup>24</sup> Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." <sup>25</sup> Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, <sup>26</sup> and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" <sup>27</sup> She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

<sup>28</sup> When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." <sup>29</sup> And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. <sup>30</sup> Now Jesus had not yet come to the village but was still at the place where Martha had met him. <sup>31</sup> The Jews who were with her in the house consoling her saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. <sup>32</sup> When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." <sup>33</sup> When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. <sup>34</sup> He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." <sup>35</sup> Jesus began to weep. <sup>36</sup> So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" <sup>37</sup> But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

<sup>38</sup> Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. <sup>39</sup> Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." <sup>40</sup> Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" <sup>41</sup> So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. <sup>42</sup> I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." <sup>43</sup> When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" <sup>44</sup> The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

<sup>45</sup> Many of the Jews, therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did believed in him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Children's Sermon**

**Noisy Offering** – Pine River Backus Food shelf

**Sermon-“Risen!”**

Pastor Hans Anderson

**\*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.*

We pray for the church. Grant life and peace to all who gather in your name. Breathe into us so that we may share your message of forgiveness, hope, and love. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We pray for creation. Renew landscapes that have dried up, prosper the work of those who restore homes and habitats after natural disasters, and sustain places where biodiversity thrives. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We pray for the nations. Unbind leaders trapped by fear to act boldly for justice, free all who live in places of war and violence, and guide refugees and asylum seekers to safety. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We pray for all people in need. Take away the stone of poverty that weighs down so many. Console any who weep and heal all who are sick. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We pray for this assembly. Ready the hearts and spirits of all preparing to be baptized. Deepen our wonder at the mystery of your resurrection and life. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

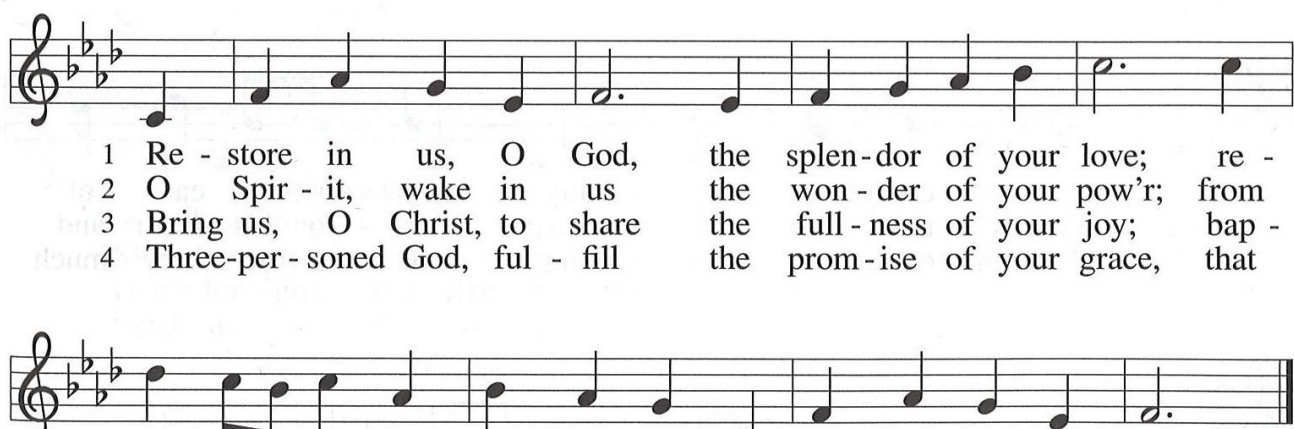
Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.

**Amen.**

## Offering 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.

## Hymn of the Day: "Restore in Us, O God" (*Offering will be taken at this time*)



1 Re - store in us, O God, the splen - dor of your love; re -  
2 O Spir - it, wake in us the won - der of your pow'r; from  
3 Bring us, O Christ, to share the full - ness of your joy; bap -  
4 Three-per - soned God, ful - fill the prom - ise of your grace, that

new your im - age in our hearts, and all our sins re - move.  
fruit-less fear un - furl our lives like spring-time bud and flow'r.  
tize us in the ris - en life that death can - not de - stroy.  
we, when all our search-ing ends, may see you face to face.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944  
Music: Hal H. Hopson, b. 1933  
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Music © 1985 Hope Publishing Company

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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.

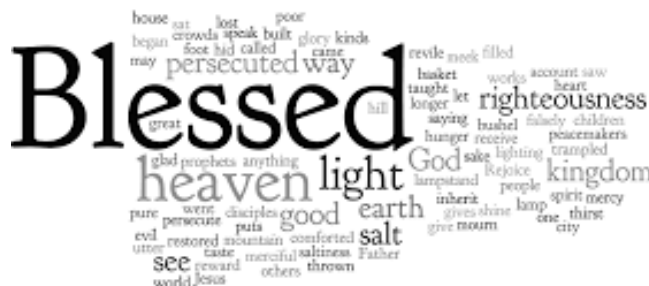
## \*Lord's Prayer

✠ Communion ✠

## Holy Communion Distribution

**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.**

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-** "Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing" (ELW 886)

1 Oh, for a thou - sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem - er's praise,  
2 My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, as - sist me to pro - claim,  
3 The name of Je - sus charms our fears and bids our sor - rows cease,  
4 He speaks, and lis - t'ning to his voice, new life the dead re - ceive;

the glo - ries of my God and king, the tri - umphs of his grace!  
to spread through all the earth a - broad the hon - ors of your name.  
sings mu - sic in the sin - ner's ears, brings life and health and peace.  
the mourn - ful, bro - ken hearts re - joice, the hum - ble poor be - lieve.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.

Music: Carl G. Gläser, 1784–1829; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

Public Domain

**\*Dismissal:**

Go in peace. Believe the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**



**Reader:**

Mark Lange

**Communion Assistants:**

**Zoom:**

Cora Hohnstadt

**Sound:**

Denice Smith

**Ushers:**

Paul Pearson & Vince and Jace Norman

**Altar Guild:**

Jodi Perry & Rene Frigaard

**Counter:**

Brenda Anderson

## The Week Ahead

**Sunday, March 22, 2026**

*Fifth Sunday in Lent/Noisy Offering*

Worship Service

9:00 AM

Fellowship & Coffee Time

10:00 AM

**Wednesday, March 25, 2026**

**NO WOW**

Soup Supper

5:00 PM

Holden Evening Prayer

6:00 PM

**Sunday, March 29, 2026**

*Palm Sunday*

Worship Service

9:00 AM

Fellowship & Coffee Time

10:00 AM

**SUPPORT**  
**LOCAL**  
**FOOD SHELVES**

**March 1 - April 6, 2026**  
Find your local food shelf or donate  
at **245 Barclay Ave, PO Box 1, Pine River, MN 56474**

**MN Food Share**  
**MARCH CAMPAIGN**

**PINE RIVER AREA FOOD SHELF**

**General Mills Foundation**  
**CenterPoint Energy**  
**BlueCross BlueShield of Minnesota**  
**AgriBank**  
**C.H. ROBINSON**  
**DELTA ENERGY**  
**Cooley Albert T. O'Neil Foundation**  
**Margaret Rivers Fund**  
**Furniture MART**  
**LAND LAKES INC.**

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## 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 882 7501 6398 Passcode is 753902.

**Bulletins** can be sponsored for \$25.00 per week. This week’s bulletin is sponsored by Irene Gearey in memory of Jim. The sign-up sheet is on the *Called to Serve* bulletin board in the Narthex.

**Current College students** and 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. We can also mail a form to you if you call the church office (587-2316) with a request.

The Scholarship Committee administers two scholarship programs that have been established by the Church. These are: The John Gearey Memorial Scholarship, which is earmarked for two-year college students, and the First Lutheran Terry Olin Fund Scholarship which may support members involved in college programs, technical school programs, special single event courses, and also encourages applications from non- traditional students. The Scholarship Committee will be meeting in April to consider applications for the 2026-2027 school year. 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 19<sup>th</sup>. **Remember, the only way to receive a scholarship is to apply.**

**Today’s Noisy Offering** is going to the Pine River Backus Food Shelf. March is Minnesota FoodShare Month, when people, businesses, and organizations come together to help food shelves across the state. The campaign is the largest grassroots food drive in Minnesota.

**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 are collecting donations of bars or pump bottles of soap. The collection box is in the church narthex. Donations can be given anytime the church is open. The soap collected will be given to the Pine River Backus Food Shelf.

### **New Member Classes are coming in April!**

**April 12, 2026,** New Member Class after worship

**April 19, 2026,** New Member Class after worship

**April 26, 2026,** New Members received with potluck following worship.

## Prayers of Healing, Care and Joy

### Those with medical concerns...

Madeleine Primmer

Ryan Kelley

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

Leonard Nelson

### 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

### ATTENDANCE & OFFERING

Sunday, March 15, 2026

Attendance: 68

Offering March 15, 2026 \$2,533.00 Weekly Budget: \$3,803.77

Direct Deposit: \$ 75.00

Total Offerings: \$2,608.00

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

2025-2026 Giving: \$92,079.63 Expenses: \$94,649.63

Income less Expenses for February:

\$13,160.77 - \$16,729.34 = (\$3,568.57)

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.



## 2026 Lenten Wednesday Schedule

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



### Easter Garden Order Form

The following flowers are available to order for the  
Easter Garden at First Lutheran Church.

| <u>TYPE OF PLANT</u> | <u>COST<br/>EACH</u> | <u>HOW<br/>MANY?</u> | <u>TOTAL<br/>COST</u> |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Easter Lily          | \$14.00              | _____                | _____                 |
| Begonia              | \$14.00              | _____                | _____                 |
| Cyclamen             | \$14.00              | _____                | _____                 |
| Total Order:         |                      |                      | \$ _____              |

In Honor/Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

- Orders must be received by *Palm Sunday, March 29*.
- Drop off your order form at the church office.
- *Please include payment.*
- Please make checks payable to First Lutheran Church.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_