



Welcome to First Lutheran Church

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

Church Office: 587-2316

www.1stluth.org

Fifth Sunday of Easter/Senior Recognition

May 3, 2026

Welcome and Announcements (*Guests, please sign the attendance pad in the pew*)
Sharing the Peace

Graduation Quilt Presentation and Blessing

Denny Aleckson: Today we celebrate those who are taking another step in their faith journey as they approach the end of their high school careers. Will the parents and sponsors of those graduating from High School, the graduates, and their families please come to the front of the church as their names are called.

(All Parents and Graduates come and stand by the communion railing.)

Denny Aleckson: Parents and sponsors, in Christian love you presented your children for Holy Baptism. In their Baptisms, sacred promises were made. As parents of these young women/men, it was part of your calling to see that those sacred promises were kept:

- to faithfully bring them to the services of God's house,
- to teach them the Lord's Prayer, the Creed and the Ten Commandments.
- to place in their hands the Holy Scriptures
- and to provide for their instruction in the Christian faith.

You have fulfilled those promises. We now ask you to covenant with this congregation for the ongoing support of these young women/men's faith journeys. Do you intend to routinely lift your children up in prayer?

Parents and Sponsors: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

Pastor: Congregation, do you promise to support and encourage these parents in the keeping of these sacred promises?

All: We will, with God's help.

Denny Aleckson: *(To Graduates)* You have participated in First Lutheran's worship, fellowship, education and service programs. As you move ahead to this new step in your life's journey, we ask you, will you continue:

- “to live among God's faithful people,
- to hear God's Word and share in his supper
- to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
- to serve all people, following the example
- of our Lord Jesus,
- and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?”

Graduates: I will, and I ask God to help and guide me.

Denny Aleckson: On this important day, the day when we mark your “Stepping into the World” and bless you with the gift of a quilt, we ask God's blessing on you and on the whole people of God in Christ Jesus. Let us pray:

Denny Aleckson: Dear God of creation, we ask your blessing on these young people as they enter a new period in their lives of faith. Bless them and grant them your gifts: joy as they live among your faithful people; openness in hearing your Word and thankfulness in sharing your supper; eagerness in sharing the good news of Christ through their words and actions; dedication in serving all people following the example of the Lord Jesus; and a hunger for justice and peace. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

PRESENTATION OF THE QUILTS

(Graduates kneel. Parents wrap their child in the quilt and lay hands on to bless the graduate.)

Denny Aleckson: Dear Friends in Christ, there was a day when your parents held you in their arms and rocked you to sleep. They cuddled you in a blanket to keep you warm, safe and comforted. Very soon you will be launching a new life, away from the safety and security of this home, family, church and community.

Denny Aleckson: As you go out into the world, may this quilt be a reminder of your parent's love and the nurture of the Christian community of First Lutheran Church. Wherever you go, when the night is cold and you feel alone, may it help you remember you are never alone.

Parents' Prayer: We come this day before God to bless you and thank the Creator for the gift you have been to us. You have given our lives a deeper meaning and a deeper calling. Through you, we have come to understand the nature of God's love, of joy, of forgiveness. We thank God today for the gift that you have been to our lives. Wherever you go, you will always be a part of us. Wherever you go, our love goes with you. Whatever you do, you will always be a part of our hearts.

We bless you in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. May this quilt remind you of our love, the warmth of this faith community and the power of the Holy Spirit. And on those nights when we cannot wrap you in our arms, may you wrap yourself in this quilt and know that in God's family you are never alone.

(Graduates rise. Parents kneel. Graduates place hands on parent's shoulders to bless them by reading these words)

Graduates: You have given of your heart and of your home. You have loved and cared for me, even when it was difficult. I bless you this day for the sacrifice you made to give me life. I thank God this day for the power and selflessness of your love. I honor you for your courage, your patience, your wisdom and your undying love. Wherever I go, you will always be a part of me. Wherever I go, your love and example will continue to bless me. Whatever I do, I will always be your child and I thank God for blessing my life with you. I bless you in Jesus' name.

(All parents and graduates may stand together.)

Denny Aleckson: Wherever you wander, no matter how dark the night, may the warmth of this quilt, the love of your parents, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the fellowship of this church, the power of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you now and forever. Go with God's blessing. Amen.

Let us honor the parents & graduates who have kept the promises made to God in baptism with our thanks and applause.

Presentation of Scholarship Awards



The Holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

***Gospel: John 14:1-14**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹ “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ² In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴ And you know the way to the place where I am going.” ⁵ Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶ Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

⁸ Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” ⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰ Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹ Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, but if you do not, then believe because of the works themselves. ¹² Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Children’s Sermon

Sermon-“No way...Yah way!”

Pastor Hans Anderson

JESUS IS THE WAY
John 14:1-14



***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:**

Trusting in the power of Christ’s resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

A brief silence.

God of glory, you have built your church on Christ the cornerstone. Inspire lay leaders, deacons, pastors, and bishops to proclaim forgiveness and your steadfast love to all whom they encounter. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God of majesty, you bring forth plants and animals, skies and seas, mountains and valleys. Protect all you have made from the ravages of pollution and climate disaster. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God of mercy, you intend governments and social service agencies to be instruments of peace and justice. Guide political leaders and organizations to be agents of compassion, and raise up advocates for those who seek refuge and assistance. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God of well-being, you soothe those in distress, console all who grieve, provide for any in need, and comfort those who are sick. Instill caregivers with a sense of purpose to be your healing hands in this world. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God of community, you call us together as your people for mutual support and to witness to your love in the world. Make your presence known among those unable to attend worship today. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.
Amen.



Hymn of the Day: "O Jesus I have Promised" (ELW 810) *(Offering will be taken during the hymn)*

1 O Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;
 2 Oh, let me feel you near me; the world is ev - er near.
 3 Oh, let me hear you speak - ing in ac - cents clear and still
 4 O Je - sus, you have prom - ised to all who fol - low you

re - main for - ev - er near me, my mas - ter and my friend.
 I see the sights that daz - zle, the tempt - ing sounds I hear.
 a - bove the storms of pas - sion, the mur - murs of self - will.
 that where you are in glo - ry your ser - vant shall be too.

I shall not fear the bat - tle if you are by my side,
 My foes are ev - er near me, a - round me and with - in;
 Now speak to re - as - sure me, to has - ten or con - trol;
 And Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;

nor wan - der from the path - way if you will be my guide.
 but, Je - sus, then draw near - er to shield my soul from sin.
 now speak and make me lis - ten, O Guard - ian of my soul.
 oh, give me grace to fol - low, my mas - ter and my friend.

Text: John E. Bode, 1816–1874, alt.
 Music: *Neuermehrtes Gesangbuch*, Meiningen, 1693

Public Domain

***Offertory Prayer**

**Merciful God,
accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory.
You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day
when we will hunger and thirst no more.
Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus,
that goodness and mercy may follow us
and bless the world you love.
In the name of Jesus,
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 †

*All who believe in the death and resurrection as given in this bread and wine are welcome to the table today.
Please follow usher's guidance to come forward to receive communion and then return to your seat.
Gluten free wafers, and apple juice are available from the communion server upon request.
You are welcome to this Table of our Lord.*

Holy Communion Distribution at the rail

***Post Communion Prayer**

**Holy One,
through this meal you have made your home among us
and are making all things new.
Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts,
to love our enemies,
and to bring your healing to the nations.
In the name of Jesus,
Amen.**

***Blessing:**

**God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end,
Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead,
and the Spirit, our advocate and peace,
✠ bless you now and forever.
Amen.**

Sending Song- “You are the Way” (ELW 758)

1 You are the way; to you a - lone from
2 You are the truth; your word a - lone true
3 You are the life; the rend - ing tomb pro -
4 You are the way, the truth, the life; grant

3

sin and death we flee; all those who search for
wis - dom can im - part; you on - ly can in -
claims your con-qu'ring arm; and those who put their
us that way to know, that truth to keep, that

6

God, you find and by your grace set free.
form the mind and pu - ri - fy the heart.
trust in you not death nor hell shall harm.
life to win, whose joys e - ter - nal flow.

Evangelical Lutheran Hymnal 758
Text: George W. Doane, 1799-1858, alt.
Music (DUNDEE, CM): *Psalter*, Edinburgh, 1615

***Dismissal:**

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!



Reader:
Communion Assistants:
Zoom: Cora Hohnstadt
Sound: Val Johnson
Ushers: Paul Pearson & Neil Smith
Altar Guild: Penny Siewert & JoAnn Nelson
Counter: Denice Smith

The Week Ahead

Sunday, May 3rd, 2026

Fifth Sunday of Easter/Senior Recognition

Worship Service	9:00 AM
Fellowship & Coffee Time	10:00 AM

Wednesday, May 6th, 2026

WOW	3:30 PM
Meal	5:00 PM
Confirmation	5:45 PM

Thursday, May 7th, 2026

Dorcas Circle	9:00 AM
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Friday, May 8th, 2026

Pine River Backus Day of Service	9:00 AM - NOON
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Sunday, May 10th, 2026

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Worship Service	9:00 AM
Fellowship & Coffee Time	10:00 AM

Announcements

Sunday Services at First Lutheran continue to be in-person and via Zoom. To join us via Zoom, go to 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. The sign-up sheet is on the *Called to Serve* bulletin board in the Narthex.

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

We are honoring the following **graduating seniors** this morning: Kalie Trout, Shannon Rugroder, Julieanna Bresnahan, and Kaleb Shamp. Please join us this morning in celebrating with them, with cake during fellowship.

NEEDED: 4 basketballs and 2 footballs for the ball cart in the hallway by the South parking lot. If you have these slightly used items taking up space in your home or if you want to purchase new, the youth of First Lutheran will put them to use!

Camp Hiawatha and Camp Vermilion Waterfront Challenge The waterfront is one of the most loved places at camp- where campers swim, fish, launch canoes, laugh with friends and experience the joys of God’s creation. There has already been a \$25,000.00 gift, which needs to be matched to purchase the docks. \$8,350.00 has been given from the VLM board of directors and other generous donors. The First Lutheran Congregational Care Commission voted to donate \$200.00 at the April meeting. NOW on Sunday, May 10, 2026, a special offering for the Challenge will be held during the church service. Please come prepared to help our camps with the blessing of funds to purchase the new docks. Your Support helps make life changing camp experiences happen.

Last week’s **Noisy Offering** will be **giving** to the Lutheran Disaster Response. Lutheran Disaster Response shares God’s hope, healing and renewal with people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world. With your help, Lutheran Disaster Response accompanies those who are displaced by conflict, in need of health care in war-torn areas or at risk due to other humanitarian crises. When the dust settles and the headlines change, we stay to provide ongoing assistance to those in need.

Vacation Bible School
Mark Your Calendars!
VBS will be July 6-10
Hosted at Riverview Church

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



VOLUNTEER WITH
OPERATION SANDWICH

**SUMMER VOLUNTEER
INTEREST MEETING**

*Learn more about Operation Sandwich and sign
up to volunteer this summer.*

First Lutheran Church

Thursday, May 28th

10 AM

Packing and distribution to follow for those able to join.

*For more information, contact Samantha at
samantha@bridgesofhopemn.org or call (218)-825-7682*

OUT TO LUNCH BUNCH

Our May outing will be to Andy's in Crosslake. We will meet on May 21st in the church parking lot at 11:00 AM

WELCOME



ANDY'S CROSSLAKE
UNWIND WITH US

Join us at Andy's, where flavors meet a vibrant atmosphere on our outdoor bar and patio. Indulge in top-notch cuisine and refreshing drinks, perfect for any occasion!