

First Lutheran
relationships that transform

LOVE
ONE
ANOTHER

JOHN 15:9-17

Sixth Sunday of Easter
May 9, 2021

Welcome to worship at First Lutheran Church

We worship God using the form of worship which has been used by Christians throughout church history, which is commonly called “liturgical worship.” Liturgy is defined as the “work of the people,” which means that this is a participatory form of worship for all people, whether leading from the front, or singing and responding as a part of the congregation

In worship, we come out of the chaos of the world to prepare ourselves to meet God, who is revealed to us in Jesus Christ. Through confession/forgiveness, prayer, and proclamation of the Word of God, we are led to the center of our worship which is the celebration of Holy Communion (also called the Lord’s Supper or Eucharist). It is in that act of eating and drinking the true body and blood of Jesus in the forms of bread and wine, that we make a sacred connection with God. As our worship concludes, we are sent back into the world, as people who have been changed by an encounter with God, to be light in the midst of the chaos and confusion of the world.

FLC regularly supports the work of the following ministries of our denomination and community:

- Longview Community Ministries
- Newgate Mission
- Texas Ramps Project
- Living Water International
- Lutheran World Relief
- Lutheran Disaster Response

Any time you would like to contribute to these ministries, you may label your offering as such, and the church office will forward the money to the appropriate place.



An assistive listening system is available in our sanctuary. This is a state of the art system by Anchor Audio, it is durable and delivers great sound quality.

You may select a receiver from the basket in the rear of the sanctuary, near the sound booth; please return it following worship.

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
MAY 9, 2021 8:15 AM & 10:45 AM

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHILDREN'S CHURCH (10:45 am)

Children up to 5th grade are invited to attend children's church. Meet the leader at the back of the sanctuary. The children's church meets in the chapel. The children will return to the service just before Holy Communion.

Please stand

CALL TO WORSHIP (SPOKEN RESPONSIVELY)

I was glad when they said unto me,

Let us go to the house of the Lord!

Unless the Lord builds the house,

In vain do the builders labor

Surely the Lord is in this place.

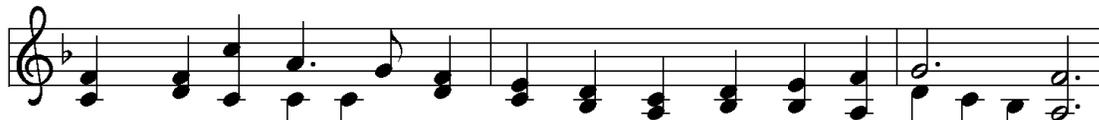
This is the house of God, this is the gate of heaven!

Oh, come let us worship!

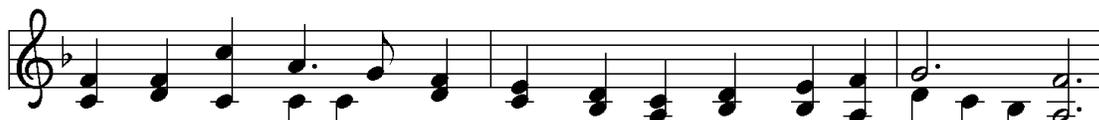
Oh, come let us worship!

REPLY

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty



Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre - a - tion!



O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and sal - va - tion!



Let all who hear now to his tem - ple draw near,



join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father,
And of the Son,
And of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open,
All desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid:
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
That we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name,
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Most merciful God,

We confess that we are captive to sin

And cannot free ourselves.

We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,

By what we have done and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart;

We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.

Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will

And walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us,

And for his sake God forgives us all our sins.

As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ,

And by his authority, I therefore declare to you

The entire forgiveness of all your sins,

In the name of the Father,

And of the Son,

And of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heav'n, to
 2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - 'ry
 3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us all thy
 4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion, pure and spot - less

earth come down! Fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy
 trou - bled breast; let us all in thee in - her - it; let us
 life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er -
 let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -

faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,
 find thy prom - ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning;
 more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,
 ly re - stored in thee! Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,

pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with
 Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as
 serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee
 till in heav'n we take our place, till we cast our

thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.
 its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
 with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
 crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise!

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

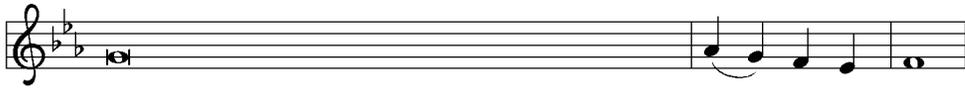
KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



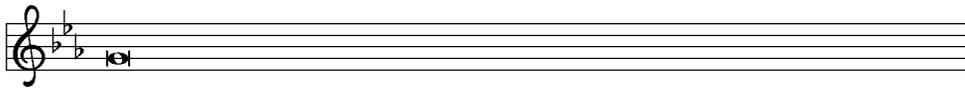
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



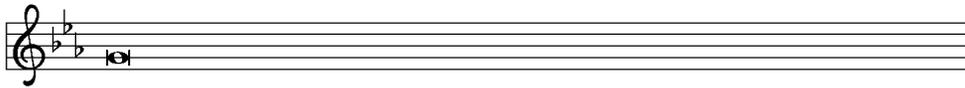
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Refrain



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.



Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and strength, and



hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.



3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -



gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated.

FIRST READING: Acts 10:44 – 48

⁴⁴While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. ⁴⁵The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, ⁴⁶for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, ⁴⁷“Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” ⁴⁸So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING: 1 John 5:1 – 6

¹Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. ²By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, ⁴for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. ⁵Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

CELTIC ALLELUIA!

Fintan O'Carroll/Christopher Walker

REFRAIN

(Refrain sung by Cantor, then ALL sings before and after verse)

Al - le -

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le -

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. ia. _____

1, Final D.S. Fine 2 to Verse

GOSPEL: John 15:9 – 17

The holy gospel according to John.
Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ⁹“As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

¹²“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Pastor Jeff Borgwardt

SILENT REFLECTION

Please stand

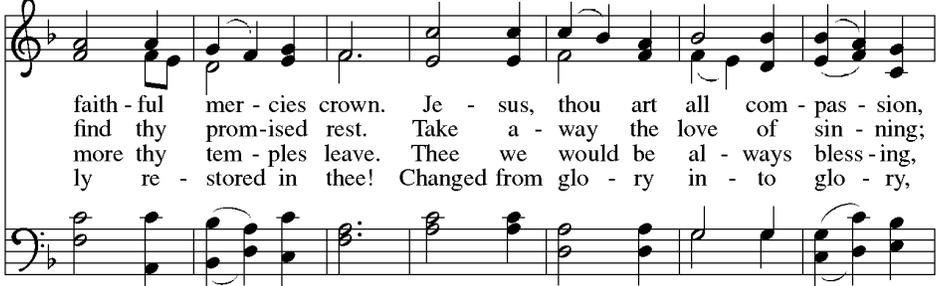
Love Divine, All Loves Excelling



1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heav'n, to
 2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - 'ry
 3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us all thy
 4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion, pure and spot - less



earth come down! Fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy
 trou - bled breast; let us all in thee in - her - it; let us
 life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er -
 let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -



faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,
 find thy prom - ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning;
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pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with
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 serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee
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thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.
 its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
 with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
 crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise!

APOSTLE'S CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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 INTERCESSION

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

SHARING OF CHRIST'S PEACE

The Peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

You may be seated.

OFFERING ANTHEM

Please stand

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

We Are an Offering

692



We lift our voic-es, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an



of-fer-ing. Lord, use our voic-es, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our



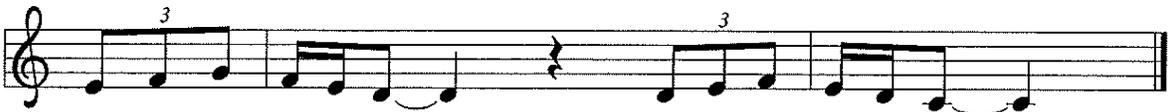
lives, they are yours: we are an of-fer-ing. All that we have, all that we are,



all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you.



We lift our voic-es, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you:



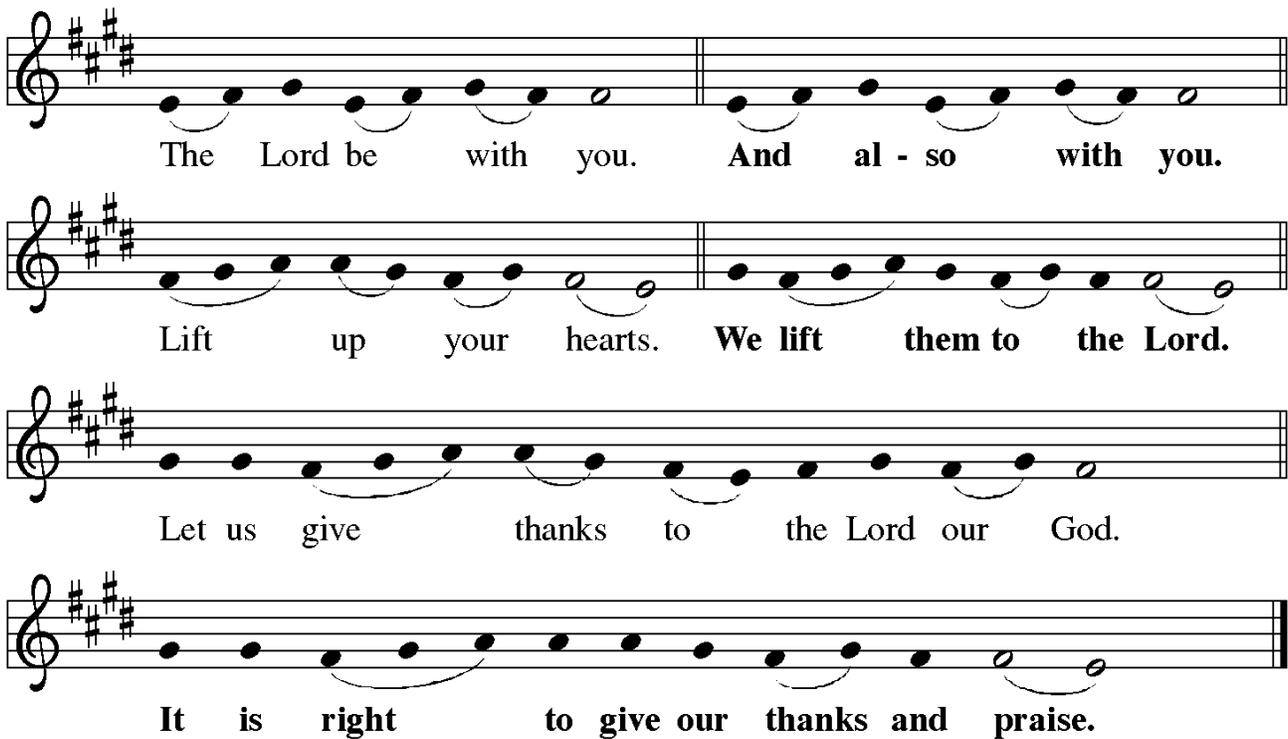
we are an of-fer-ing, we are an of-fer-ing.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of love,
you call us beloved children and welcome us to your table.
Receive our lives and the gifts we offer.
Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world;
for the sake of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words in bold. The first staff has a double bar line in the middle. The second staff also has a double bar line in the middle. The third and fourth staves end with double bar lines.

It is indeed right...we praise your name and join in their unending hymn.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
 pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
 san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
 name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

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; 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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The gifts of God for the people of God. . . .

Please be seated.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

All baptized Christians are welcome to commune. We teach that Holy Communion is a celebration of the real presence of Christ under forms of bread and wine. For those who prefer, cups in the center ring of the tray are filled with white grape juice. If you wish to receive a blessing, signal this by crossing your arms against your chest.

COMMUNION SONG

Tod Sechrist

Woman *Men* *All*

Je - su, Lamb of God, You take a - way the sins of the world, have

Woman *Men* *All*

mer - cy on - - - us. Je - su, Bread of Life, You take a - way the

Woman *Men* *All*

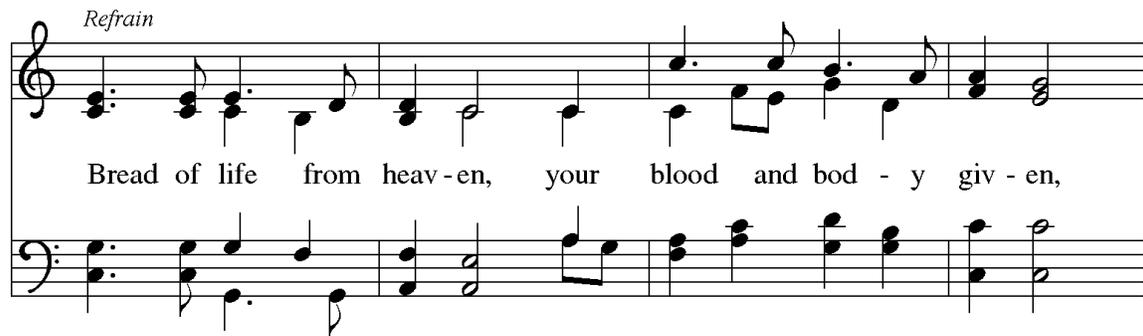
sins of the world, have mer - cy on - - - us. Je - sus, Prince of Peace, You

take a - way the sins of the world, Grant us You - - r peace.

Please join in singing the distribution hymn.

Bread of Life from Heaven

Refrain



Bread of life from heav-en, your blood and bod - y giv - en,



we eat this bread and drink this cup un - til you come a - gain.



- 1 Break now the bread of Christ's sac - ri - fice; giv - ing
- 2 Seek not the food that will pass a - way; set your
- 3 Love as the one who, in love for you, gave him -
- 4 Dwell in the one who now dwells in you; make your
- 5 Drink of this cup and de - clare his death; eat this



thanks, hun - gry ones, gath - er round. Eat, all of you, and be
hearts on the food that en - dures. Come, learn the true and the
self for the life of the world. Come to the one who is
home in the life - giv - ing Word. Know on - ly Christ, Ho - ly
bread and be - lieve Eas - ter morn; trust his re - turn and, with



sat - is - fied; in Christ's pres - ence the loaves will a - bound.
liv - ing way, that the full - ness of life may be yours.
food for you, that your hun - ger and thirst be no more.
One of God, and be - lieve in the truth you have heard.
ev - 'ry breath, praise the one in whom you are re - born.

Refrain

Please stand

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen us and keep us in His grace. **Amen.**

CANTICLE



Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful -



filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre-pared in the



sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the na - tions



and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.



Now, Lord, you let your ser - vant go in peace.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of joy,
through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts.
Satisfy the hunger still around us,
and send us as joyful witnesses,
that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

BENEDICTION

Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

Christ Arose

*Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here. Mk. 16:6
O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? 1 Cor. 15:55*

1. Low in the grave He lay, Je - sus, my Sav - ior, Wait - ing the com - ing day, Je - sus, my Lord!
2. Vain - ly they watch His bed, Je - sus, my Sav - ior; Vain - ly they seal the dead, Je - sus, my Lord!
3. Death can - not keep his Prey, Je - sus, my Sav - ior; He tore the bars a - way, Je - sus, my Lord!

Refrain faster

Up from the grave He a - rose, With a might - y tri - umph o'er His foes, He a - rose! He a - rose!

He a - rose a Vic - tor from the dark do - main, And He lives for - ev - er, with His saints to reign.

a tempo

He a - rose! He a - rose! He a - rose! Hal - le - lu - jah! Christ a - rose!

WORDS and MUSIC: Robert Lowry, 1874. Public Domain.

Go in peace! We are formed and loved by Christ to live.
Thanks be to God.

CHORAL REPLY

a tempo

He a - rose! He a - rose! He a - rose! Hal - le - lu - jah! Christ a - rose!

The image shows a musical score for a choral reply. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The treble staff contains the vocal line with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: "He a - rose! He a - rose! He a - rose! Hal - le - lu - jah! Christ a - rose!". The bass staff contains the piano accompaniment. The tempo marking "a tempo" is written above the first measure of the treble staff.

WORDS and MUSIC: Robert Lowry, 1874. Public Domain.

POSTLUDE

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ALTAR FLOWERS

GIVEN BY BILL ANDERSON IN MEMORY

OF LINDA ANDERSON

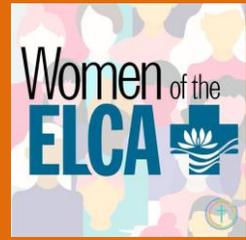




Men's Breakfast is BACK!
May 15th 8:00 am
FLC Fellowship Hall



**Congregational End of
School Year Party!!**
May 19th 6:00 – 8:00 pm
FLC Fellowship Hall
**Join us for Food, Fun
and Frolicking!**



WELCA will meet after
second service on
Sunday, May 16th. A
signup sheet will be in the
narthex. Lunch will be
provided so please sign
up and pick your
sandwich.



DAY CAMP IS COMING!!
Register now at:
**[www.firstlutheran.us/
day-camp](http://www.firstlutheran.us/day-camp)**



The Leo & Melba Sparkman Memorial Scholarship

The applications must be returned by
May 15 with a transcript, teacher
recommendation, statement of needs and
future aspirations.

Prayer Needs

Please send all prayer requests and updates to the church office at: prayerchain@firstlutheran.us

FLC Members

Eddie Landinger has pneumonia.

Donna O'Sullivan is having ongoing treatments.

LaKeita Walker, needs strength and wisdom.

Mary Alice Derry who is in Whispering Pines Nursing Home.

Bob and Pat Mueller need prayers for strength.

Debbie Graham suffers with Multiple System Atrophy-Cerebellar type.

Pray for wisdom for our church leadership.

Family and Friends of FLC Members

Amelie, granddaughter of the Landingers, is having lung problems due to her illness with covid.

Xavier Sanders is in need of strength and wisdom

Kathy & Leonard Bass, need healing, strength and wisdom.

Rachel Paschall, daughter in law of Cole and Deb Paschall, who has MS.

Daryl Knotts, a friend of Bryan Poland, has cancer.

Leonard Bass, Jr, nephew of Lou Bass, having a lot of kidney related problems.

Meagan Palmer, granddaughter of Dee Stirling, suffers from Lupus.

Bob & Diana Padgett and their family for her chronic schizophrenia.

Healing for those suffering with Corona virus, and protection for those at risk.

Alzheimer's patients and their caregivers.

Those who are imprisoned.

Pray for church growth, numerically and spiritually.

Pray for wisdom and direction for our church leadership.

The homeless

Members Serving in the Military

Eric Jenkins – Ft. Meade, MD

Terrina Anderson – Joint Base Langley-Eustis, VA

Timothy Martin – Navy

May 9, 2021

Eternal, Unconditional, and Unchanging

To abide is to put down roots: to dwell in the same location and with the same people for the long term. Unlike in Jesus' time, today few of us live in the same place in which we were born. Families are routinely scattered across the country and around the world. Yet Jesus invites us, "Abide in my love" (John 15:9). While so much else in our lives seems impermanent, Jesus' love is eternal, unconditional, and unchanging.

In today's gospel, Jesus is on his way to the cross. Pressed for time and filled with urgency, he can convey only the most important message. Of all the subjects he has explored during his ministry, he chooses to emphasize that which matters most: his own love. Jesus knows that love is eternal, that it transcends death and the grave. He knows that love is essential, that it must be at the core of our being. He knows that love is the embodiment of all his teachings, healings, and ministry.

Jesus knows that Judas has already betrayed him. He knows that shortly, Peter will deny him. In preaching love, he shows us that the sort of love he has for each of us is stronger than our own very human shortcomings—and that his love for us, and for his disciples, is forever. As followers of Jesus, we are charged with loving one another with the unconditional, eternal love that he has for us. In a world of change, such a responsibility is challenging, yet living out that challenge is what gives our lives purpose. The secret to love is that it puts others first. Love is the only emotion that can defeat our instinctive self-centeredness. In charging us to love one another, Jesus issues an invitation to be awake and aware, to see others as beloved children of God, and to reflect divine love back onto everyone we encounter. In this way, Jesus lives in each of us.

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Longview, Texas 75605
903-295-7423
churchsecretary@firstlutheran.us
www.FirstLutheran.us

We receive gifts for the mission of the congregation and the Church in the world.

An offering plate is available in the back of the sanctuary. If you prefer to give by credit card you may do so at www.firstlutheran.us/donate or by scanning the QR code below



In ministry to those in need in our community, foodstuffs are received to support Longview Community Ministries. Please help keep our baskets filled to overflowing!

Assisting In Worship Today

Celebrant: Pastor Jeffrey Borgwardt

Musicians: Lou Bass, and The Chancel Choir

Lectors: 8:15: Dee Stirling

10:45: Teresa DeShazer

Flowers: Jeanette Nolen

Church Staff

Jeffrey E. Borgwardt, Pastor

Lou V. Bass, Director of Music

John Parsons, Dir of Youth and Family Min.

Tina Sewell, Secretary

Karen Smith, Bookkeeper

Mary Stuart & Gayle Poland, Success Center Coordinators

Taylor Jirik, Success Center

2021 CONGREGATION COUNCIL

Jim Hernholm (*President*)

Vivian McElligott (*Vice-President*)

Donna Ashby (*Secretary*)

Teresa DeShazer (*Treasurer*)

Leslie Jenkins (*Relationship with God*)

Gayle Poland (*Relationship with Community*)

Rachel Grundmann (*Relationship with One Another*)