

Welcome to Worship!



Gathering as a people of God since 1904

**FIRST LUTHERAN – ELCA
THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

916 Main St. Williston, ND 58801

701-572-6363 www.flcwilliston.com

On Facebook @ First Lutheran Church – Williston, ND

SHARING GOD'S LOVE

Sunday, September 27

18th Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 a.m. WORSHIP

Pastor Stephen Hilding

WELCOME VISITORS.

***IF YOU ARE SEEKING A NEW CHURCH HOME,
PLEASE CONSIDER FIRST LUTHERAN***

PRELUDE
WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Beautiful

GATHERING SONG **Now Thank We All Our God**

LBW 534

1 Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voice - es,
2 Oh, may this boun - teous God through all our life be near us,
3 All praise and thanks to God the Fa - ther now be giv - en,

who won - drous things has done, in whom his world re - joice - es;
with ev - er joy - ful hearts and bless - ed peace to cheer us,
the Son, and him who reigns with them in high - est heav - en,

who, from our moth - ers' arms, has blest us on our way
and keep us in his grace, and guide us when per - plexed,
the one e - ter - nal God, whom earth and heav'n a - dore;

with count - less gifts of love, and still is ours to - day.
and free us from all harm in this world and the next.
for thus it was, is now, and shall be ev - er - more.

Text: Martin Rinkhart, 1586–1649; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1829–1878
Music: NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
who pours love into our hearts
and healing upon the earth.

C Amen.

P Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith,
let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Compassionate God,
C we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness
in the world and in our own hearts.
Creation groans from overuse.
Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships.
Indifference keeps us from seeking justice.
Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love
to others.
Turn our hearts back to you.
Restore our world and reconcile us to one another.
Renew us to live as your holy people,
following the way of Jesus Christ.
Amen.

P Hear this good news:
We have peace with God through ✝ Jesus Christ,
in whom there is no condemnation,
but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life.
Receive freely this healing gift of grace.
C Amen.

GREETING

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray:
God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
C Amen.

The assembly is seated.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Pastor Stephen Hilding

(All kids age 3 up to 5th grade are welcome at Sunday School whether they are registered or not! If they are new and are anxious about going, parents are welcome to come and join!)

FIRST READING

EZEKIEL 18:1-4, 25-32

Ezekiel challenges those who think they cannot change because of what their parents were and did, or who think they cannot reverse their own previous behavior. God insistently invites people to turn and live.

¹ The word of the Lord came to me: ² What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, “The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge”? ³ As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴ Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins who shall die.

²⁵ Yet you say, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ²⁶ When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed, they shall die. ²⁷ Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. ²⁸ Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed they shall surely live; they shall not die. ²⁹ Yet the house of Israel says, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

³⁰ Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. ³¹ Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³² For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

A The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

Philippians 2:1-13

As part of a call for harmony rather than self-seeking, Paul uses a very early Christian hymn that extols the selflessness of Christ in his obedient death on the cross. Christ’s selfless perspective is to be the essential perspective we share as the foundation for Christian accord.

¹ If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, ² make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. ⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

⁶ who, though he existed in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be grasped,
⁷ but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
assuming human likeness.
And being found in appearance as a human,
⁸ he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

⁹ Therefore God exalted him even more highly
and gave him the name
that is above every other name,
¹⁰ so that at the name given to Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
¹¹ and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

¹² Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence
but much more now in my absence, work on your own salvation with fear and trembling,
¹³ for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good
pleasure.

A The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Please stand to welcome the Gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

He is Exalted

Twila Paris

He is exalted; the King is exalted on high. I will praise him.
He is exalted, forever exalted, and I will praise his name.

He is the lord. Forever his truth shall reign.
Heaven and earth rejoice in his holy name.
He is exalted, the King is exalted on high.

After driving the moneychangers out of the temple (21:12), Jesus begins teaching there. His authority is questioned by the religious leaders, who are supposed to be in charge of the temple.

²³ When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” ²⁴ Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵ Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why, then, did you not believe him?’ ²⁶ But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet.” ²⁷ So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸ “What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ ²⁹ He answered, ‘I will not,’ but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰ The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered, ‘I go, sir,’ but he did not go. ³¹ Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and even after you saw it you did not change your minds and believe him.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

MEDITATION

Pastor Stephen Hilding

Please stand.

Light of the world
You stepped down into darkness
Opened my eyes, let me see
Beauty that made this heart
Adore you
Hope of a life spent with you

And here I am to worship
Here I am to bow down
Here I am to say that you're my God
You're altogether lovely
All together worthy
All together wonderful to me

King of all days, oh so highly exalted
Glorious in heaven above
Humbly you came to the earth you created;
All for love's sake, became poor

Here I am to worship
Here I am to bow down
Here I am to say that You're my God
You're altogether lovely
All together worthy
All together wonderful to me

I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross
I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross
I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross
I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

A brief silence.

A Center your church in humility as we strive to follow in your way. Help us listen to the cries of those who have been unfairly hurt by the church and dare to name difficult truths. Show all your love. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A You call us to care for your creation. Lead us into your promise of a better world through sustainable practices and respect for your handiwork. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Inspire all in positions of authority to act honorably. Remind them of their call to use their authority for the sake of the common good. Give them the gift of humility. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Comfort those who come before you in fear and trembling. Calm troubled hearts with your forgiveness. Help all those in need especially those we name at this time. Grant us your salvation. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

PEACE

A The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

Please share Christ's peace with those around you.

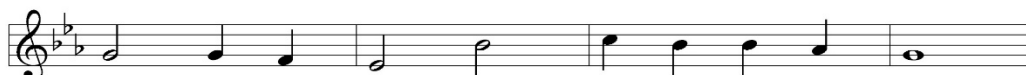
OFFERTORY

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERING

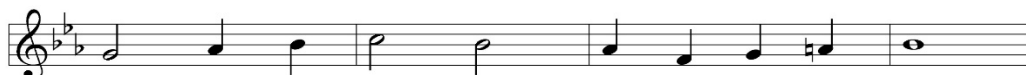
(The offering is a part of our service when God's people respond to His goodness with gifts to support God's work in the world. Malachi 3:10 promises us that our 10% tithe of our wealth will not go unrewarded, and we are encouraged to give offerings above the tithe. An offering is not expected of our guests, but if you consider First Lutheran to be your church home, know that all your gifts support ministries both locally and globally.)

OFFERING MUSIC

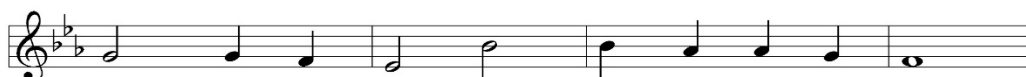
Abide With Me



1 A - bid with me, fast falls the e - ven - tide.
2 I need thy pres - ence ev - 'ry pass - ing hour;
3 Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day;
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 - bid.
what but thy grace can foil the tempt - er's pow'r?
earth's joys grow dim, its glo - ries pass a - way;
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,
Who like thy - self my guide and stay can be?
change and de - cay in all a - round I see;
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 - bid with me.
Through cloud and sun - shine, oh, a - bid with me.
O thou who chang - est not, a - bid with me.
I tri - umph still, if thou a - bid with me!
in life, in death, O Lord, a - bid with me.

Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793–1847

Music: EVENTIDE, William H. Monk, 1823–1889

OFFERING

Please stand.

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Words of Institution

THE LORDS 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 power, and the glory, forever and ever.
Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

COMMUNION DISTRUBUTION/ MUSIC

How Beautiful

Please stand.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION - BENEDICTION



1 This lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
 2 Ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
 3 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;



this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
 ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;



this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine,
 ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine,
 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine,



let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
 let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
 let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Text: African American spiritual

Music: THIS JOY, African American spiritual

DISMISSAL

P Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

C Thanks be to God.

Remember our Mission:

“The Mission of FLC is

To share God’s Love by Engaging, Inspiring and Renewing.”

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CROSS TALK

You are welcome to experience God's love here at First Lutheran, where our lives are changed by the promises God has made to us through Jesus Christ. We pray that the Holy Spirit will profoundly engage you as we worship our Lord, together!

Hearing transmitters are available at the Main Street entry. If you need assistance, ask one of the ushers or greeters. Please return the transmitter after worship.

If you are interested in electronic giving, please contact the church's Financial Admin, Randi Jangula, at 572-6363 or office@flewilliston.com.

Help us help you! If you or a family member is hospitalized or homebound and need a visit, please contact the church office. We have no way of knowing unless you speak up.

Restroom locations - Downstairs at church entrance, in north & south hallways to Fellowship Hall. A handicapped facility is near the door to the big kitchen.

SERMON SERIES



Engage. Inspire. Renew. — A New Wave of God's Love

God's love is on the move. This fall, as a new season begins at First Lutheran, we will follow Matthew's Gospel into the heart of our mission: to share God's love by engaging, inspiring and renewing. Jesus gathers the church into real community, breaks open the power of forgiveness, disrupts our ideas of deserving, calls us beyond words into action, asks us to bear fruit, and sends us to invite others into the feast of grace. This is more than the start of another program year. It is a renewed calling.

Gathered by grace, we are sent in love.

Pastor	Stephen Hilding
Deacon	Lynea Geinert
Director of Worship & Music	Anthony Morris
Musicians: Grace Keck – Vocals, Braxton Kucera - Vocals & Flute Nikolai Astvatsaturov - Vocals & Violin	
Our Savors	Cindy Gardner
Sound Tech	Zach Myhrer
Greeter	Phyllis Stokke
Ushers	Steve Rehak
Reader	Beverly Conway
Coffee Hour	
Communion Servers	Pauline Everson, Beverly Conway

Membership

Are you curious about becoming a member of First **Lutheran Church** or learning more about our faith, mission, and community? We would love to talk with you! Whether you are new to First Lutheran, returning after time away, or simply exploring what membership means, we welcome your questions and interest.

Our **New Member Orientation Classes** will be held after worship in the parlor on:
September 27th

These gatherings are an opportunity to learn more about our ministry, our Lutheran faith and the mission God has given First Lutheran.

We will celebrate and welcome new members during
New Member Recognition Sunday on October 4th.

☎ *Church Office Phone 701-572-6363*

✉ *Pastor Stephen's Email: stephen@flcwilliston.com*

We look forward to getting to know you and walking together in faith.

THIS WEEK AT FLC

Sunday, September 27

9:30 am Worship Service -S

9:45 am Sunday School

10:30 am New Member Orientation Class

following Worship - P

10:30 am Coffee Hour

Monday, September 28

1:00-3:00 pm Adult Quilting - QR

6 pm Boy Scouts - FH

Tuesday, Sept 29

7 am Men's Bible Study Gramma Sharon's

1 pm Staff Meeting - MR

Wednesday, Sept 30

2 pm -Women's Bible Study P

5:30 PM meal (new)- FH

6:00 pm contemporary worship (new) – chapel

6:45 – 7:30 pm Wed School,

6:45 – 7:30 pm Confirmation

TBD Youth Group Dates

Thursday, October 1

10 am - Coffee Group - P

Noon – Men in Mission - P

1:00-3:00 pm Adult Quilting - QR

1:30 pm Pray, Knit, Chat – P

6 pm –Cub Scouts Mtg - YR

Friday, October 2

Saturday, October 3

Sunday, October 4

Worship & New Member Recognition

9:30 am Worship

10:30 am Coffee Hour

Prayer for healing and comfort:

Tara Gratz, Dustin Clark, Dorothy Lynch,

Janelle Vandeburg, Jean Lewis,

Doug Lehman, Mabel Colebank,

Ron Raymond, and Sawyer Smith

Sympathy and Prayers:

To the family of Kari Lee

Military Service Members

Tayder Jones, Isaac Haugen,

Lars Conway, Cecilio Benn, Jorn Everson

Prayer List Updates?

Please look at the prayer list.

Those listed on the Prayer list will remain there for a period of four (4) weeks unless a request is received to be removed earlier. More info?

Call 701-572-6363

Week of September 20–September 25

Weekly Giving - \$8,873

Attendance

- Sunday, September 20 - 157
- Wednesday September 23 – 64
- **221 - DISCIPLES** were sent out in God's name to make a difference. We go out to do the same this week.



**Today's Radio Broadcast is in Honor
of Lowell and Carol Jean Sandvik's
60th Anniversary October 1
and is given by Lee, Janel, Jeff, and
Bethany Sandvik.**

STEWARDSHIP

It's all about gratitude.

It's all about giving back

It's all about God.

Direct – Cash or check donation
into the plate, always welcome!

Online – Make a donation on
our website:

www.flcwilliston.com

Text to Donate – Make a donation via
Text message.

Simply text the word “Give” to
833-934-3039

Click on the link in the response
and follow the prompts to
complete your donation!



Tithe.ly Church App –

Search “Tithe.ly Church App” in your
phone App Store or Google Play.

Simply download and find

First Lutheran Church, Williston ND

Click on the Give button.

First Lutheran Church

916 Main Street

Williston, ND 58801

Upcoming Events

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION CLASS

September 27 following Worship - P

First Day of Sunday School

Wednesday, September 30

Wed Meal, Wed Worship,

Wed School and Confirmation Classes

Thursday, October 1

Noon – Men in Mission – Speaker: Pastor

Stephen Hilding – Meal will be served

Sunday, October 4

9:30 am Worship & New Member Recognition



Help Needed!!

We need volunteers to help with the
radio broadcast on Sunday mornings!!

With a little bit of training, you will be
good to go.

Text Zach Myher for more Information!
218-688-2333



Thursday, October 1, 12 Noon – Parlor

First Lutheran Church Williston

Speaker: Pastor Stephen Hilding

Meal will be provided. All Men are welcome.



Reminder

☑ **Saturday, October 3rd**

All women of the church are warmly invited to attend the Fall Gathering at Springbrook Bible Camp. Kindly sign up at the reception desk by Sunday September 27th. WELCA will RSVP and pay registration for those who are signed up. We will meet in the church parking lot at 9 am to carpool.

USHERS, GREETERS, AND READERS

Can you Help? We need individuals to serve as ushers, greeters, and readers for **Sunday morning worship** and the upcoming. Sign-up sheets are in the Narthex on Sunday morning and at the reception desk during the week.

**Don't forget our Radio
Broadcast's
in honor or memory
of your loved ones!!!**



*Gospel
Choir
Practice*

THE GOSPEL CHOIR GROUP IS HOLDING PRACTICE

- All are welcome!
- On the 2nd Sunday of each month the Gospel Choir practices in the parlor before the 9:30 am Worship Service.
- On the 3rd Sunday of each month, the Gospel Choir sings in church.
- *Contact Karla Osborn at*
- *(701) 570-3987 for more info.*

OCTOBER

WELCA Newsletter



DATES TO KNOW

Oct 3 – Fall Cluster @ 9:30 am
at Springbrook Bible Camp

Oct 5 – WELCA Board Meeting
@ 11 am in Media Room

Oct 14 – Pack personal care
and baby kits @ 10 in FH

Oct 17 – Hope Circle @ 10 am in
Parlor

Oct 18– Shipping Fund and
Quilt Blessing @ 9:30 am

Oct 21 – Faith Circle @ 9:30 am
in Parlor

Oct 23–24– CAMP OF THE
CROSS WOMEN'S RETREAT

Nov 2 – WELCA Board Meeting
@ 11 am in Media Room

Nov 4 – WELCA General
Meeting @ TBD in Parlor

Nov 8 – Thankoffering @ 9:30
service



NEWS

WELCA General Meeting
Wednesday, November 4th in
Parlor @ TBD

Bible Study and Circles

All women are welcome to join
any of the Bible Studies or Circles
offered. Each one covers a
different topic.



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDIES

*****All Women are Welcome to Attend*****

Weekly Study

Meets Wednesdays at 2:00 p.m. in the Parlor

Hope Circle

Meets the 3rd Saturday of each month at 10:00
a.m. in the Parlor

Faith Circle

Meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 9:30
a.m in the Parlor

PROJECT OF THE MONTH

Lutheran World Relief Shipping Fund

As the work continues to grow in complexity and reach, LWR has streamlined our efforts to be good stewards of the gifts you entrust to us. To ensure efficiency, we have updated the suggested shipping donation to \$4.00 for each donated item. Please remember this is a suggestion; it is not a requirement. Any amount that you can donate to help your quilts and kits reach their destination is much appreciated!

Please help us to raise money to send to help cover these costs. Our goal will be to raise \$500 to send to LWR to help offset the cost of shipping quilts and kits.

CONTACT INFO

For more information contact:
Lisa Zunich (701) 570-4604 lzunich@me.com



Beautiful Girl Retreat

- Friday, November 13, 2026 5:30 PM
- Saturday, November 14, 2026 3:00 PM
- Springbrook Bible Camp
- 12601 58th Street Northwest
- Epping, ND, 58843

All 4th-6th grade girls are invited to be a part of a weekend that will make them feel royal and radiant and learn how we are both of those things through Christ, with special guest Miss North Dakota, Emma Tong. Beautiful Girl is a ministry aimed at girls in 4th-6th grade. Through our event we hope the girls who attend will realize they have been created by a loving God who wants them to walk in freedom, discover their beauty and live a life of purpose. It's a night the girls will never forget. This is an overnight retreat where you can come on your own or with several friends.

Cost: \$60

REGISTER HERE: [Beautiful Girl Retreat — Springbrook Bible Camp](#)



REMINDER

— There is a meal served before church services on Wednesday each week unless otherwise noted.

**Wednesday, September 30 will be
served by Council.**

**Please join us for the meal
at 5:30 and worship at 6:00.**

CHILDREN & YOUTH REGISTRATION INFORMATION:

Parents the online registration form is available now!

Please use the online registration form to register for: Sunday School,
Wednesday School, Confirmation and Youth Group.



Student Registration:

- Register here by scanning the QR Code
use this link: <https://bit.ly/4i3Oqme>

Sunday Schedule

9:30 am Worship Service -S

9:45 am Sunday School

10:30 am Coffee Hour

New Wednesday Night Schedule

5:30 PM —Meal (For All Ages) – Fellowship Hall

6:00 PM — Midweek Worship (For All Ages) - Chapel

6:45 – 7:30 PM — Wednesday School

6:45 – 7:10 PM -- Confirmation Large Group

7:10 – 7:30 PM – Confirmation Small Group

OCTOBER 14TH FAITH STATEMENT MEETING

There will be a faith statement meeting for
*9th and 10th grade confirmation students
and their parents/guardians*
on Wednesday October 14th
following worship.



Sermon Notes September 27, 2026

(Confirmation students please complete sermon notes)

Have you ever changed your mind and done the right thing after saying "no"?

Why is a changed heart more important than just saying the right words?

Who is one friend or family member who could use the light of Jesus, and how could you invite them to church or Confirmation/ youth group?

Where have you seen God at work this week or felt the presence of the Holy Spirit?