

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
1100 EAST SUPERIOR STREET, DULUTH, MN

September 6, 2026

10:00 a.m.

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST: PRIDE SUNDAY

Both Pride and worship are acts of celebration and protest, acts of remembrance, and enactments of a world where all belong.
We practice these acts in a world where the safety and rights of LGBTQIA+ people are threatened each day.

On Pride Sunday, we cry out for justice and rejoice in the beauty of our embodied selves. We remember the suffering of those who came before us and imagine new ways of loving ourselves and our neighbors.

You are welcome in this worship service exactly as you are, embracing all aspects of yourself: your doubts, curiosity, anger, hope, disappointment, complexities, faith, and joy. You were made very good.

Let's rejoice in this truth and worship the One who made us all.

You are invited to light a candle in prayer on the Tree of Life during the service.

The candle-lighter is hanging on the wall; you may need to take a candle out to light it.

Please pass the Friendship Notebook along your row and greet those around you that you may not know.

We welcome children in worship. There is a family room across from the right front sanctuary doors.

Hearing assist receivers are available at the ushers' station.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

The assembly stands

CALL TO WORSHIP

Prayer by Rev. Elder Troy D. Perry for pride month, 2025

Loving and Liberating God, you who called each of us by name before we were born,
you who knit us together in the womb with purpose and pride.

We come before you today with hearts open and spirits lifted high.

Thank you, God, for the gift of our lives- for every part of who we are, for the diversity of the color of our skin, the fullness of our love, the sacredness of our gender and the stories that shape us.

You are the God who walked with Moses, danced with Miriam, spoke through the prophets,
and rose with Christ-

**And we believe you still speak today, in the voices of those once silenced,
in the love of those once shamed, in the pride of those once hidden.**

We pray for a church that is not only open, but affirming.

A church that doesn't just tolerate, but celebrates.

We pray for strength to do justice, to walk humbly, to love radically,
and to build communities that are welcoming- NO exceptions.

God, let our faith be fierce, our love be bold, our hope be unshakable.

Thank you for visionaries, who dared to believe that your love has no boundaries.

And that all of your children- every single one- are holy. We pray this in the name of the One who loved without fear, Jesus Christ, our Liberator and Friend. Amen

GATHERING HYMN *God of Many Faces*

God of man - y fa - ces, we of - fer our praise,
 God of man - y gen - ders, our world re - flects you,
 God of man - y names, we in - vite you to show
 God of man - y bod - ies, a - bide with - in ours,

sing - ing your glo - ry through all of our days.
 sun - rise and sun - set u - ni - ting our hues,
 us the new names that re - flect our true souls.
 shift - ing more each day through time and through scars.

Hear ev - er grow - ing voi - ces, once fra - gile, now strong,
 wo - ven in - to a ci - ty with jewels of all shades,
 Breathe with your ho - ly spir - it to give us the Word
 Come sanc - ti - fy our bod - ies, all fash - ioned by you,

car - ry - ing mel - o - dies in ex - pan - sive new songs.
 hou - ses of ru - by and walls rowed wth jade.
 that will in - dwell dry bones, grant - ing new life once heard.
 ho - li - er ev - ery - day, still be - com - ing more true.

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APOSTOLIC 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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Loving God, we belong to you. Shape us in your love, that we may reflect your goodness and mercy into our world. As we follow your way, teach us to live with affirming spirits and open hearts to see you in all that you have created and called good. In Jesus name, **Amen.**

The assembly is seated.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

BRENDA SCHRADER

READING Galatians 3:23-29

Word of God.

Word of Life.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Word of God— speak, would you pour down like rain,— wash-ing my eyes

5
— to see— Your maj - es-ty.— To be still and know— that You're in this place,

8
— please let me stay and rest in Your ho - li- ness. Word of God speak.

GOSPEL JOHN 13:31-35

The Holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Mikah Meyer

The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.

HYMN OF THE DAY *All Belong Here*

5 Your love is our song, all hearts will sing a - long, all be-long here, all are chil-dren of

7 God. Your love is our song, all hearts will sing a -

long, all be - long here, all are chil - dren of God.

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

13 all are chil - dren of God.

16 You have turned my wai-ling in - to danc-ing.

20 You have turned my wai-ling in - to danc-ing.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Hear us, O God. or Bless we the Lord,
Your mercy is great. Thanks be to God!

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace. All are then seated for the offering.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

OFFERING

*You are invited to use our digital offering plate. Text “**fleduluth**” to **73256**. You’ll be sent a text with a link to give. Click on the link and enter your giving information. Thank you for supporting God’s mission through FLC.*

OFFERTORY MUSIC

The assembly stands.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together:

Loving God,

we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts.

**Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love,
so that all creation can taste your abundance.**

We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also 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 thanksgiving continues with the Words of Institution, concluding with the Lord’s Prayer.

Nurtured by Jesus’ words, we pray:

**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

Heaven has come near. Come, share in the feast!

The assembly is seated.

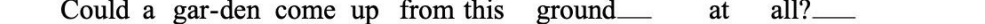
*We practice Eucharistic hospitality; all are welcome. Receive the bread and dip it into the wine (red)
or grape juice (white). Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.*

COMMUNION *Beautiful Things*



All this pain. — I won-der if I'll ev - er find my way;—
 All this earth; — could all that is lost ev - er be found?
 All a - round, — hope is spring-ing up from this old ground.

4



— I won-der if my life could real-ly change— at all.—
— Could a gar-den come up from this ground— at all?—
— Out of cha-os, life is be-ing found— in you.—

9

You make beau-ti-ful things, — You make beau-ti - ful things out of the dust. —

13

You make beau - ti - ful things, — You make — beau - ti -

15

ful things out of us. _____

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together:
Compassionate God,
through the gifts of bread and wine
our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love.
Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal,
may share your love freely, as you have shared with us.
We ask this in the name of Jesus,
through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever. Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

BLESSING

The presiding minister proclaims God's blessing.

Amen.

SENDING *Blessing of Saint Clare*

Go forth in peace fol-low the good road
Praise be to God for ha-ving made us

9
Go with-out fear for you are loved
with all ex-pres-sions of our love

13
Go forth in peace fol-low the good road
Praise be to God for ha-ving made us

17
Go with-out fear for you are loved
with all ex-pres-sions of our love there

21 D
is no fear in love there is no fear in love oh

DISMISSAL

Go in peace planting seeds of peace and grace.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Ministers	All People of First Lutheran Church
Pastor	The Rev. Dianne O. Loufman
Associate Pastor	The Rev. Andrea Bonneville DeNaples
Program Staff	Karen Sande, Director of Music Michael Fuchs, Director of Choral Activities Bryan Gatten, Director of Contemporary Worship
Assisting Minister	Cindy Monroe
Reader	Linnea Papke-Larson
Musicians	The Rising Sound
Audio/Video Team	Eric Gatten, Sam Weston, Shania Krause

Acknowledgements *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, *With One Voice* and *All Creation Sings* texts and hymns ©2026 Augsburg Fortress. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS009917, One License #A-729428, CCLI License #1816436, CCS WorshipCast Streaming License #13132.. *All Belong Here* Lacey Brown © 2022 Poor Clare. *Blessing of Saint Clare* Lacey Brown © 2016 Poor Clare. Musical arrangements by Bryan Gatten.

First Lutheran Church, dedicated to the mission of Jesus Christ, welcomes you into this community of faith, where we share life in its entirety, with all its joys and sorrows. We believe all people are created in the image of God and are offered God's love, grace, and forgiveness, regardless of religious tradition, age, gender identity, race, education, economic status, sexual orientation, family structure, mental or physical abilities, or where they might be on their faith journey. We acknowledge the indigenous culture of this land. We are committed to the work of racial justice. We extend a special welcome in Christ's love.

faithlovecommunity
First Lutheran Church

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