

A scenic image of a farm at sunset. In the background, a large barn and a tall silo are silhouetted against a vibrant sky with orange, yellow, and blue hues. The foreground is a dark, grassy field.

Do not be afraid, little
flock, for your Father has
been pleased to give you
the kingdom.

LUKE 12:32

First Lutheran Church
August 10, 2025
Pentecost 9

Jesus says, “It is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.” It is God’s promise from the beginning—to Abraham, to the early church, and to the “little flock” of which we are a part in today’s assembly. Faith, God’s baptismal gift, trusts the promises of God. Have no fear.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

LITTLE FLOCK

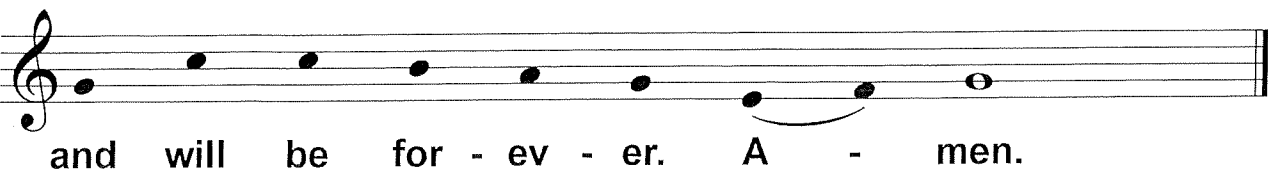
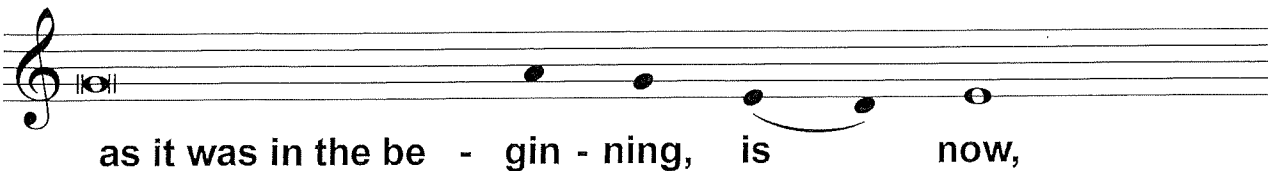
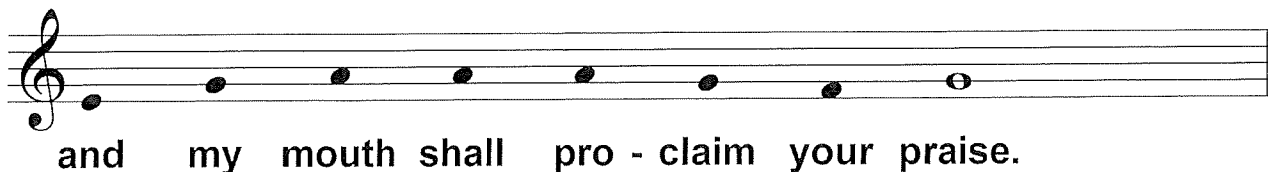
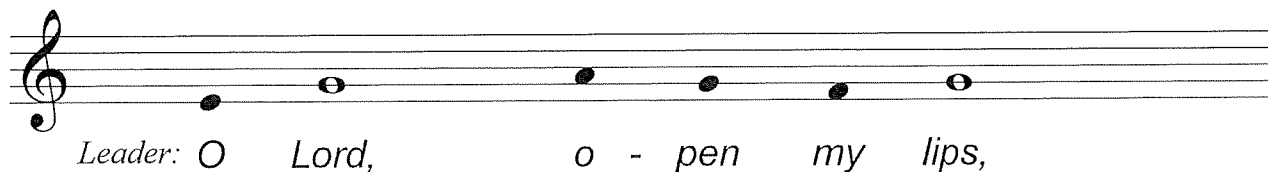
Michael Burkhardt

Have No Fear, Little Flock

(Please stand)


MORNING PRAYER

OPENING DIALOGUE AND DOXOLOGY



PSALMODY

INVITATORY



Oh, come, let us wor - ship and praise.

MORNING PSALM OF PRAISE


PSALM 95:1-7

Come, Let us sing to the Lord; let us shout for joy to the

rock of our sal - va - tion.

The Cantor will sing the verses.

FINAL INVITATORY



Oh, come, let us wor - ship and praise.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Almighty God, you sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your church. Open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may be ready to receive you wherever you appear, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

(Please be seated)

FIRST READING

GENESIS 15:1-6

R: A reading from Genesis, the fifteenth chapter.

¹ After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." ² But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³ And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." ⁴ But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." ⁵ He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." ⁶ And he believed the LORD, and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

R: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

HEBREWS: 11:1-3,8-16

R: A reading from Hebrews, the eleventh chapter.

¹ Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ² Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. ³ By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible. ⁸ By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance, and he set out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹ By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰ For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. ¹¹ By faith, with Sarah's involvement, he received power of procreation, even though he was too old, because he considered him faithful who had promised. ¹² Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the

stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.”

¹³ All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, ¹⁴ for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. ¹⁵ If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶ But as it is, they desire a better homeland, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

R: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Please stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

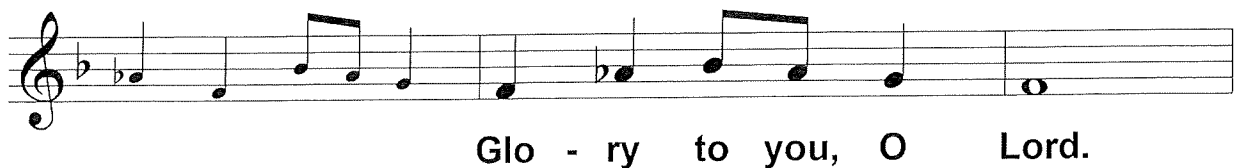


Cantor: Keep awake and be ready, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. (Matt. 24:42, 44)

GOSPEL

LUKE 12:32-40

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the twelfth chapter.



[Jesus said:] ³² “Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. ³³ Sell your possessions and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. ³⁴ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. ³⁵ “Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; ³⁶ be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. ³⁷ Blessed are those slaves

whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them.³⁸ If he comes during the middle of the night or near dawn and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.³⁹ "But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into."⁴⁰ You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

P: This is the gospel of our Lord.

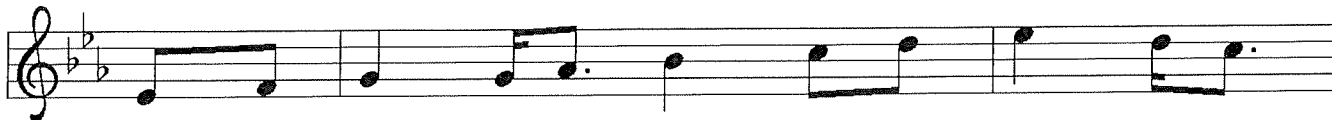


Praise to you, O Christ.

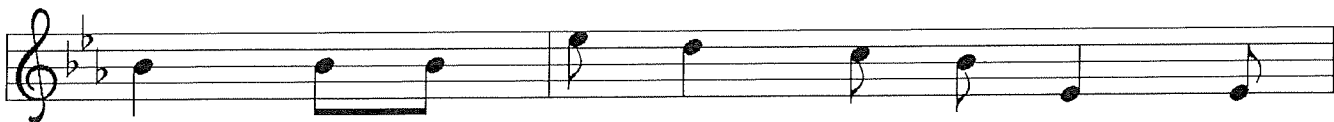
HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW# 764

Have No Fear, Little Flock



1	Have	no	fear,	lit - tle	flock;	have	no	fear,	lit - tle
2	Have	good	cheer,	lit - tle	flock;	have	good	cheer,	lit - tle
3	Praise	the	Lord	high a -	bove;	praise	the	Lord	high a -
4	Thank - ful	hearts	raise to	God;		thank - ful	hearts	raise to	



flock,	for	the	Fa - ther	has	cho - sen	to
flock,	for	the	Fa - ther	will	keep	you
bove,	for	he	stoops down	to	heal	you,
God,	for	he	stays close	be - side	you,	in



give you	the king - dom;	have no	fear,	lit - tle	flock!
his love	for - ev - er;	have good	cheer,	lit - tle	flock!
lift and	re - store you;	praise the	Lord	high a -	bove!
all things	works with you;	thank - ful	hearts	raise to	God!

Text: Luke 12:32, st. 1; Marjorie Jillson, b. 1931, sts. 2-4
 Music: LITTLE FLOCK, Heinz Werner Zimmermann, b. 1930

(Please be seated)

(Please stand)

CANTICLE

Refrain

In the ten - der com - pas - sion of our
God the dawn from on high shall
break up - on us.

The Cantor will sing the verses.

APOSTLES' CREED

P: Living together in trust and hope, we profess our faith as expressed in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

C: 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.

(Please be seated)

OFFERING AND ORGAN MEDITATION

SOJOURNER

Doug McConnell

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

(Please stand)

OFFERING SONG

ELW # 680

We Plow the Fields and Scatter



1. We plow the fields and scat-ter the good seed on the land,
2. You on - ly are the mak - er of all things near and far,
3. We thank you, our cre - a - tor, for all things bright and good,

but it is fed and wa - tered by God's al - might - y hand,
You paint the way - side flow - er, you light the eve - ning star.
the seed-time and the har - vest, our life, our health, our food.

who sends the snow in win - ter, the warmth to swell the grain,
The winds and waves o - bey you, by you the birds are fed;
No gifts have we to of - fer for all your love im - parts

the breez - es and the sun-shine, and soft re - fresh - ing rain.
much more to us, your chil - dren, you give our dai - ly bread.
but what you most would trea - sure our hum - ble, thank - ful hearts.

OFFERING PRAYER

L: Creator God,
in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good and the harvest is plentiful.

Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor,
that we may work for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C: Amen.

(Please kneel)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: With all creation, we join our voice to the voice of the whole church and pray for the needs of the world.

L: Keep the heart of your church set firmly in you so that, with lamps lit and attentive to Christ's call at any time or place, your people are ready to respond with faithful action for the sake of the world.

Each petition concludes:

P: God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Trusting in your loving kindness, we place our prayer and hope in you, in the name of Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

(Please stand)

LORD'S PRAYER

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

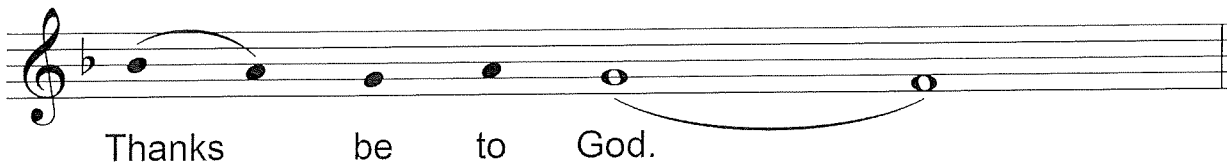
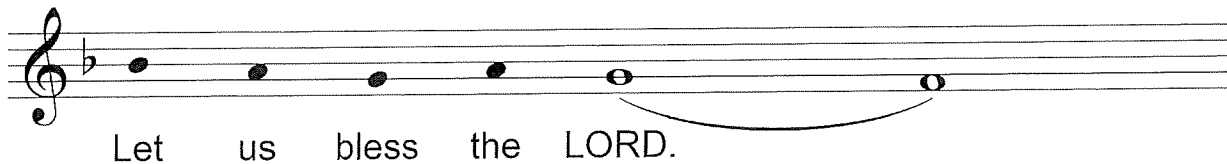
**C: Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

SENDING

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

C: Oh God,
your everlasting love for us is always trustworthy and sure.
We are grateful for the goodness you have shown us through the years,
and we ask now for confidence to go forward into the future.
Bless our community of faith, bless our healing,
bless the changes that are before us,
bless our pastoral leaders
who will shepherd us through this time of transition.
We thank you now for the wisdom you will show us
as we align with your will, and servant or servants
you are already preparing to send us in your blessed time.
Help us to keep looking to you to define our ministry
and our future.
In his name and for the sake of Jesus Christ,
our Savior and Lord, Amen.

BLESSING



The love of God abound in you;
the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ
fill your hearts; and the life of the Spirit
+ bless you and give you peace.



Lead Me, Guide Me

Lead me, guide me, a - long the way;
 for if you lead me, I can not stray.
 Lord let me walk each day with thee.
 Lead me, O Lord, lead me.
 1 I am weak and I need thy strength and power
 2 Help me tread in the paths of righ - teous - ness,
 3 I am lost if you take your hand from me,
 to help me o - ver my weak - est hour.
 be my aid when Sa - tan and sin op - press.
 I am blind with - out thy light to see.
 Help me through the dark - ness thy face to see.
 I am put - ting all my trust in thee.
 Lord, just al - ways let me thy ser - vant be.
 Lead me, O Lord, Lead me.

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace.

P: Live by the Spirit.

C: Thanks be to God.**POSTLUDE**

HOUSTON

John A. Behnke

Toccata on

"I Walk to Walk as a Child of the Light"

Events in Review

Sunday **Aug. 10**

10:00AM Church Service

Monday **Aug. 11**

10:00AM Bible Study at Willows

Wednesday **Aug. 13**

9:00AM Piece Corp

Next Week

Sunday **Aug 17**

10:00AM Church Service

BBQ New Start

Monday **Aug 18**

10:00AM Bible Study @ Willows

Wednesday **Aug 20**

5:30 PM Council Meeting

Thursday **Aug 21**

9:00 AM Blood Mobile

4:00 PM FISH Meeting



If you have a prayer request for today, please raise your hand during announcements and a host will give you a green card to fill out.

Cookie Sign up sheets are located on the Dietz Room wall. Fellowship time is before and after Church Service. Approximately 4 dozen cookies are needed each week.



School Supply Collection

The annual Lutheran Relief School Supply donation project has started and will continue until August 30. A list of needed supplies is on the table in the hallway. You can drop off the supplies in the box by that table or in the office.



New Start

Come join us to celebrate our "New Start" at First Lutheran on Sunday, August 17th. Right after service, we will enjoy a delicious BBQ picnic, followed by a question and answer session about what our ministry will look like in the future. Brats and dogs will be provided. Please see sign up sheet in foyer for sides and desserts.



Lawn Mower for the Week



Rick Nominee

Contact Us



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Interim Pastor

Pastor Mark Schuring

(740) 360-2306

theskipster55@gmail.com

Our Worship Leaders

Altar Guild:	Luisse & Ken Zeop
Cantor:	Elijah Shiley
Facebook Camera	Shelley / Tim Ross
Host:	Janet Zirger
Reader:	Melissa Chester
Worship Assistant	Melissa Chester
Director of Music:	Curtis L. King
Presiding Pastor:	Pastor Schuring

Emergency Pastors

Pastor Mark Schuring

(740) 360-2306

Mike Porter

(585) 813-5009

Pastor Philip Scherr

(814) 756-9435

Our Mission Statement

“God is among us!”

**“We are called to go out, care for all, share the gospel,
forgive, reconcile and trust God for all that we need.”**

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August 10, 2025