

October 26, 2025
Reformation Sunday

10:00am service with Holy Communion
The Reverend Ben Groth, Preaching and Presiding
Matthew Harrison, Director of Music

Welcome!

We are so glad you have joined us for worship! If this is your first time here, please fill out the yellow welcome card in the pew and place it in the offering plate if you would like to be contacted by Pastor Ben, would like more information about the church, or would like to sign up for our weekly news email.

Restrooms: Our restrooms are located downstairs at the bottom of the stairways at the back of the sanctuary. There are signs about which side has the men's and women's restrooms. There are any-gender solo restrooms in the education wing, one of which has a changing table. Please knock and ensure no one else is inside!

Care and Prayer: If you would like to request prayer or speak with Pastor Ben about struggles, joys, or anything else, please feel free to email him at bgroth@1stlutherannb.org or call/text at 860-348-3966.

Children: We love having children in worship! At the front of the sanctuary there is a "pray ground" with lots of space to spread out and sit comfortably, some toys, and a great collection of books for different ages. All children and caretakers are welcome to use that space anytime during the service!

Volunteering: We have lots of opportunities at First Lutheran to volunteer and serve our community. Our Monday Morning Mingle free meal takes place from 8-9am each Monday, while our free Pasta Dinners take place from 5-6pm each Wednesday. Both of these programs can always use volunteers. If you'd like to help out, or are interested in helping with worship or other things at First Lutheran, please contact Pastor Ben.

Coffee Hour: After the service, please join us downstairs for goodies and coffee, and a chance to get to know one another better!

Gathering

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as able

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

C Amen.

P 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.

C Amen

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

A brief silence.

P Gracious God,

C have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and
given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and
humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known
and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to
do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we
may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus
Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

P God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and
made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the
name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God
strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live
in your hearts through faith.

C Amen.

THE GATHERING HYMN # 504

A Mighty Fortress

1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -
 2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -
 3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land all threat - ning to de -
 4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, no thanks to foes, who

to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and
 ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, whom
 your us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they
 fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with

wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe
 God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?
 can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage;
 weap - ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,

has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might
 The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,
 in bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;
 goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched a - way,

he arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.
 God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.
 God's judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.
 they can - not win the day. The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** Let us pray. Holy God, our righteous judge,
C daily your mercy surprises us with everlasting forgiveness.
 Strengthen our hope in you, and grant that all the peoples of the earth may find their glory in you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Please be seated

Word _____

THE FIRST READING

- A** A reading from Jeremiah: Jeremiah 14:7-10, 19-22

⁷Although our iniquities testify against us,
 act, O LORD, for your name's sake;
 our rebellions indeed are many,
 and we have sinned against you.

⁸O hope of Israel,
 its savior in time of trouble,
 why should you be like a stranger in the land,
 like a traveler turning aside for the night?

⁹Why should you be like someone confused,
 like a mighty warrior who cannot give help?
 Yet you, O LORD, are in the midst of us,
 and we are called by your name;
 do not forsake us!

¹⁰Thus says the LORD concerning this people:
 Truly they have loved to wander;
 they have not restrained their feet;
 therefore the LORD does not accept them;
 now he will remember their iniquity
 and punish their sins.

¹⁹Have you completely rejected Judah?
 Does your heart loathe Zion?

Why have you struck us down
 so that there is no healing for us?
 We look for peace but find no good,
 for a time of healing, but there is terror instead.

²⁰We acknowledge our wickedness, O LORD,
the iniquity of our ancestors,
for we have sinned against you.

²¹Do not spurn us, for your name's sake;
do not dishonor your glorious throne;
remember and do not break your covenant with us.

²²Can any idols of the nations bring rain,
or can the heavens give showers?
Is it not you, O LORD our God?
We set our hope on you,
for it is you who do all this. The word of the Lord.

☞ Thanks be to God.

PSALM 84:1-7

Read Responsively

A ¹How dear to me is your dwelling, O Lord of hosts!

☞ ²**My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the Lord;
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.**

A ³Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest where she
may lay her young, by the side of your altars, O Lord of hosts, my
king and my God.

☞ ⁴**Happy are they who dwell in your house!
They will always be praising you.**

A ⁵Happy are the people whose strength is in you,
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.

☞ ⁶**Those who go through the balsam valley will find it a place of
springs, for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.**

A ⁷They will climb from height to height,
and the God of gods will be seen in Zion.

THE SECOND READING

A A reading from the second book of Timothy: 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

⁶As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my
departure has come. ⁷I have fought the good fight; I have finished the race;
I have kept the faith. ⁸From now on there is reserved for me the crown of
righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day,
and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

¹⁶At my first defense no one came to my support, but all deserted me. May it not be counted against them! ¹⁷But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. ¹⁸The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and save me for his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord.

☛ Thanks be to God.

Please stand as able

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION # 786 V. 1 O Holy Spirit, Enter In



1 O Ho - ly Spir - it, en - ter in, and in our hearts your
work be - gin, and make our hearts your dwell-ing. Sun of the soul,
O Light di - vine, a-round and in us bright-ly shine, your strength
in us up - well - ing. In your ra - diance life from heav-en now is
giv - en o - ver-flow-ing, gift of gifts be - yond all know - ing.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

📖 The Holy Gospel according to Luke:

Luke 18:9-14

☛ Glory to you, O Lord.

9Jesus also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: ¹⁰“Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹²I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.’ ¹³But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven but was beating his breast and saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ ¹⁴I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other, for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.” The Gospel of the Lord.

☞ Praise to you, O Christ.

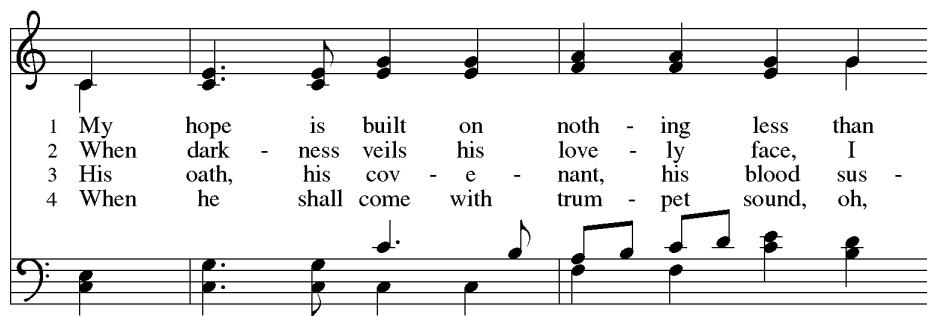
Please be seated

THE SERMON

Pr. Ben Groth

Please stand as able

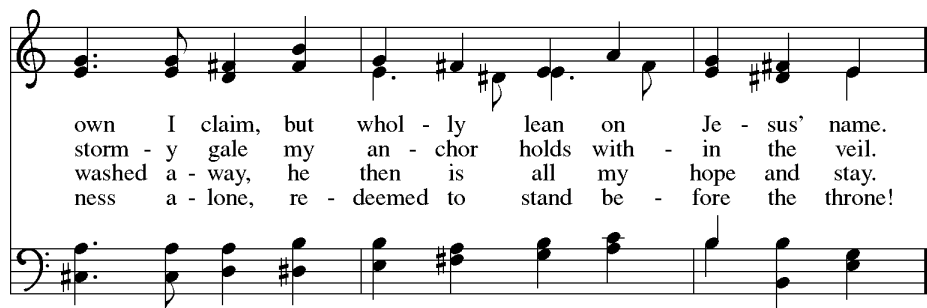
HYMN OF THE DAY # 596 My Hope is Built on Nothing Less



1 My hope is built on noth - ing less than
 2 When dark - ness veils his love - ly face, I
 3 His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood sus -
 4 When he shall come with trum - pet sound, oh,

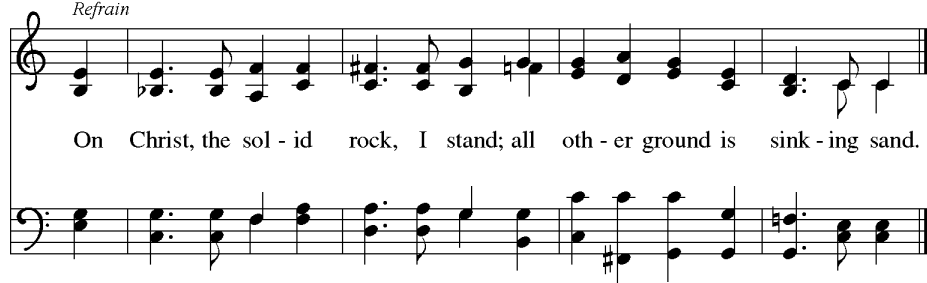


Je - sus' blood and righ - teous - ness; no mer - it of my
 rest on his un - chang - ing grace; in ev - 'ry high and
 tain me in the rag - ing flood; when all sup - ports are
 may I then in him be found, clothed in his righ - teous -



own I claim, but whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
 storm - y gale my an - chor holds with - in the veil.
 washed a - way, he then is all my hope and stay.
 ness a - lone, re - deemed to stand be - fore the throne!

Refrain



On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

P Let us confess the Christian faith, using 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.

THE PRAYERS

A Renewed in God's everlasting grace, let us pray for the church, the world, and all creation.

A brief silence.

A Uniting God, you draw your church together as the one body of Christ. Bring congregations into conversation and dialogue so the church is transformed and reformed in your abundant grace. God of grace,

C receive our prayer.

A Healing God, you comfort those who suffer. Console people whose lives are disrupted by cancer, disease, and illness. Bring your healing mercy to any in need. Especially Pr. Will, Linda, Scott, Gini, Bill, Susan, and Lin. God of grace,

C receive our prayer.

A Proclaiming God, you gift the church proclamation through music. We thank you for all music ministers of this congregation. Transform your church through the musical arts. God of grace,

C receive our prayer.

- A** Resurrecting God, you crown your beloved children with righteousness. We thank you for those who have died in faith, fought the good fight, finished the race, and kept the faith. God of grace,
- C** **receive our prayer.**
- A** We offer our prayers, O God, trusting in your everlasting grace and mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- C** **Amen.**

THE PEACE

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C** **And also with you.**

**The minister and congregation may greet one another
in the name of the Lord.**

- P** Peace be with you. **C** Peace be with you.

Please be seated.

THE OFFERING is received as the Lord's table is prepared.

SCAN FOR ONLINE GIVING

Available Now



OFFERTORY MUSIC

The offering is brought to the altar during the Offertory Response

Please stand as able

THE OFFERTORY RESPONSE #876 V. 1 Let the Whole Creation

1 Let the whole cre - a - tion cry, "Glo - ry to the Lord on high!"

Heav'n and earth, a - wake and sing, "Praise to our al - might - y king!"

Praise God, an - gel hosts a - bove, ev - er bright and fair in love;

sun and moon, lift up your voice; night and stars, in God re - joice.

Meal

THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Let us pray. God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

THE INITIAL DIALOG

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

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

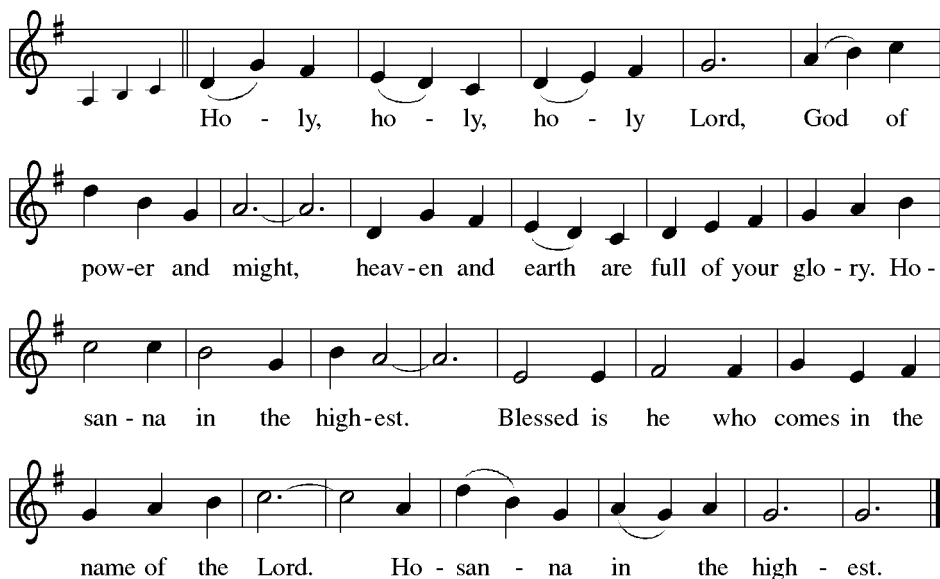
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Chord symbols: F, Dm⁷, Gm⁷, Dm⁷E^bmaj⁷, Gm⁷, C¹¹, F.

THE PREFACE

- ☐ It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
 that we should at all times and in all places
 give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
 through our Savior Jesus Christ.
 Fulfilling the promise of the resurrection,
 you pour out the fire of your Spirit,
 uniting in one body people of every nation and tongue.
 And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the
 resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures,
 and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,
 we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



THE THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

- P** ...In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples,
saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people
for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

THE 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.**

THE INVITATION TO THE TABLE

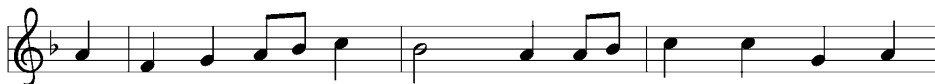
☐ Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. Come to this meal of mercy.

Please be seated

THE DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

HYMN # 480

O Bread of Life From Heaven



1 O bread of life from heav - en, O food to pil - grims
2 O fount of grace re - deem - ing, O riv - er ev - er
3 We love you, Je - sus, ten - der, in all your hid - den



giv - en, O man - na from a - bove: feed
stream - ing from Je - sus' wound - ed side: come
splen - dor with - in these means of grace. Oh,



with the bless - ed sweet - ness of your di - vine com -
now, your love be - stow - ing on thirst - ing souls, and
let the veil be riv - en, and our clear eye in



plete - ness the souls that want and need your love.
flow - ing till all are ful - ly sat - is - fied.
heav - en be - hold your glo - ry face to face.

THE COMMUNION HYMN# 601 Savior When in Dust to You



1 Sav - ior, when in dust to you low we bow in hom - age due;
 2 By your help - less in - fant years, by your life of want and tears,
 3 By your hour of dire de - spair, by your ag - o - ny of prayer,
 4 By your deep ex - pir - ing groan, by the sad se - pul - chral stone,

when, re - pen - tant, to the skies scarce we lift our weep - ing eyes;
 by your days of deep dis - tress in the sav - age wil - der - ness,
 by the cross, the nail, the thorn, pierc - ing spear, and tor - turing scorn,
 by the vault whose dark a - bode held in vain the ris - ing God,

oh, by all your pains and woe suf - fered once for us be - low,
 by the dread, mys - te - rious hour of the in - sult - ing tempt - er's pow'r,
 by the gloom that veiled the skies o'er the dread - ful sac - ri - fice,
 oh, from earth to heav'n re - stored, might - y, re - as - cend - ed Lord,

bend - ing from your throne on high, hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!
 turn, oh, turn a fa - v'ring eye; hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!
 lis - ten to our hum - ble sigh; hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!
 bend - ing from your throne on high, hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!

Please stand as able

Sending

THE POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

A O God, we give you thanks that you have set before us this feast, the body and blood of your Son. By your Spirit strengthen us to serve all in need and to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen

THE BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

C Amen

THE SENDING HYMN # 511

Thy Strong Word



1 Thy strong word did cleave the dark - ness; at thy
 2 Lo, on those who dwelt in dark - ness, dark as
 3 Thy strong Word be - speaks us righ - teous; bright with
 4 From the cross thy wis - dom shin - ing break - eth



speak - ing it was done. For cre - at - ed light we
 night and deep as death, broke the light of thy sal -
 thine own ho - li - ness, glo - rious now, we press toward
 forth in con - qu'ring might; from the cross for - ev - er



thank thee, while thine or - dered sea - sons run.
 va - tion, breathed thine own life - breath - ing breath.
 glo - ry, and our lives our hopes con - fess.
 beam - eth all thy bright re - deem - ing light.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise to thee who light dost send!



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!

THE DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

C Thanks be to God.

THE POSTLUDE

Thanks to
Worship Assistant
Nancy Peterson
Communion Assistant
John Halverson
Reader
Frank Murphy
Ushers
Louise Patterson, Elaine Borselle
Coffee Hour Goodies
Gail Bates
and
Videographer
Eric Nilsson
for volunteering
to be a part of the service this morning

People Power for 11/2/2025
Worship Assistant - Robert Buchholz
Communion Assistant - Laurie Kosich
Reader - Craig Diangelo
Ushers - Cheryl Brideaux, Paul Koerner
Coffee Hour Goodies - NA

calendar

October 27 - Monday, 8am - Morning Mingle

October 28 - Tuesday, 10am - Cleaning Company

October 28 - Tuesday, 6pm - AA Meeting

October 29 - Wednesday, 4:30pm - Worship Service

October 29 - Wednesday, 5-6pm - Pasta Dinner

October 29 - Wednesday, 6pm - Choir

October 29 - Wednesday, 6pm - AA Meeting

October 31 - Friday, 2pm - Cleaning Company

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

November 2 - Sunday, 9:30am - Prayer Group

November 2 - Sunday, 10am - Worship with Holy Communion

November 3 - Monday, 8am - Morning Mingle

November 4 - Tuesday, 10am - Cleaning Company

November 4 - Tuesday, 6pm - AA Meeting

November 4 - Tuesday, 7pm - Executive Meeting

November 5 - Wednesday, 1pm - Mission/Outreach meeting

November 5 - Wednesday, 4:30pm - Worship Service

November 5 - Wednesday, 5-6pm - Pasta Dinner

November 5 - Wednesday, 6pm - Choir

November 5 - Wednesday, 6pm - AA Meeting

November 7 - Friday, 2pm - Cleaning Company

November 9 - Sunday, 9:30am - Prayer Group

November 9 - Sunday, 10am - Worship with Holy Communion

November 10 - Monday, 8am - Morning Mingle

November 11 - Tuesday, 10am - Cleaning Company

November 11 - Tuesday, 4pm - Worship & Arts

November 11 - Tuesday, 6pm - AA Meeting

November 12 - Wednesday, 4:30pm - Worship Service

November 12 - Wednesday, 5-6pm - Pasta Dinner

November 12 - Wednesday, 6pm - Choir

November 12 - Wednesday, 6pm - AA Meeting

Monday Morning Mingle 8am-9am
 Wednesday Come-As- You-Are Worship Service 4:30pm
 Wednesday Pasta Dinner 5pm-6pm
 Clothing - Please call Marianne Farr
 for more information (860)-637-6460

PRAYER LIST

Please note: Prayer names will remain for two weeks unless renewed in the church office. Named in parentheses are those who submitted the names they follow.

Linda Carlson; Pr. Will; Scott Johnson (Carol McQueeney);
 Gini & Bill Sonstrom (Sue Sonstrom);
 Susan Cramer (Jane Holmstrom); Lin (Eileen Buys).

Serving in the armed forces: Kevin Dubois; Wesley Givens
 (Beverly Walsh); Zack; Millind; Kienen Dyer (Barbara Pond); Shawn
 Dubois.

OUR VISION

First for what is first: Christ, our Lord

First in nurturing youth and families in faith

First with inspiring worship, fellowship and service

First by reaching out to all

First Lutheran Church of the Reformation

A community of believers in Jesus Christ

77 Franklin Square, New Britain, Connecticut
 (860) 224-2475 + www.1stlutherannb.org



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.