

May 10, 2026

Sixth Sunday of Easter

10:00am - Service with Holy Communion

Pastor Ben Groth, Preaching and Presiding

Matthew Harrison, Director of Music

Welcome!

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 donuts, coffee, and a chance to get to know one another better!

Gathering

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as able

Easter Litany

- P** Praise God all you people.
God has triumphed over death and we are transformed!
- C** **The One who taught us how to pray, to serve, to love,
even unto death, has taught us how to live a new life.**
- P** The light of a new day dawns;
let shouts of praise burst forth from our hearts.
- C** **We have witnessed Love crucified and resurrected;
let the earth resound with delight.**
- P** The body that was broken is restored;
let us make a joyful noise.
- C** **The cross is vacant;
let us dance in celebration.**
- P** The tomb is empty;
let us sing alleluias with glad spirits.
- C** **The risen Christ greets us with love;
let us shed tears of joy.**
- P** We have received the gift of new life;
let us clap our hands in triumph.
- C** **We have been given grace in abundance;
let us rejoice with thanksgiving.**
- P** Praise God all you people.
God has triumphed over death and we are transformed!
- C** **The One who taught us how to pray, to serve, to love,
even unto death, has taught us how to live a new life.
Alleluia. Alleluia!**

THE GATHERING HYMN # 408

Come, Thou Almighty King



1 Come, thou al - might - y King, help us thy name to sing;
 2 Come, thou in - car - nate Word, gird on thy might - y sword;
 3 Come, ho - ly Com - fort - er, thy sa - cred wit - ness bear
 4 To thee, great One in Three, e - ter - nal prais - es be



help us to praise; Fa - ther all glo - ri - ous, o'er all vic -
 our pray - er at - tend. Come and thy peo - ple bless, and give thy
 in this glad hour! Thou, who al - might - y art, now rule in
 hence ev - er - more! Thy sov - reign maj - es - ty may we in



to - ri - ous, come and reign o - ver us, An - cient of Days.
 word suc - cess, and let thy righ - teous - ness on us de - scend.
 ev - 'ry heart, and ne'er from us de - part, Spir - it of pow'r.
 glo - ry see, and to e - ter - ni - ty love and a - dore.

THE EASTER GREETING

- ☐ Alleluia! Christ is risen.
- ☑ **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**
- ☐ 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.**

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

- ☐ Let us pray. Almighty and ever-living God,
- ☑ **you hold together all things in heaven and on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Please be seated

Word

THE FIRST READING

Acts 17:22-31

A A reading from Acts:

²²Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely spiritual you are in every way. ²³For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶From one ancestor he made all peoples to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, ²⁷so that they would search for God and perhaps fumble about for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said,

‘For we, too, are his offspring.’

²⁹“Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. ³⁰While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.” The word of the Lord.

G **Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALM 66:8-20

Read Responsively

- A** ⁸Bless our God, you peoples;
let the sound of praise be heard.
- C** ⁹**Our God has kept us among the living
and has not allowed our feet to slip.**
- A** ¹⁰For you, O God, have tested us;
you have tried us just as silver is tried.
- C** ¹¹**You brought us into the net;
you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.**
- A** ¹²You let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and water,
but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.
- C** ¹³**I will enter your house with burnt offerings
and will pay you my vows—**
- A** ¹⁴those that I promised with my lips
and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.
- C** ¹⁵**I will offer you burnt offerings of fatlings with the smoke of rams;
I will give you oxen and goats.**
- A** ¹⁶Come and listen, all you who believe,
and I will tell you what God has done for me.
- C** ¹⁷**I called out to God with my mouth,
and praised the Lord with my tongue.**
- A** ¹⁸If I had cherished evil in my heart,
the Lord would not have heard me;
- C** ¹⁹**but in truth God has heard me
and has attended to the sound of my prayer.**
- A** ²⁰Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer,
nor withheld unfailing love from me.

THE SECOND READING

1 Peter 3:13-22

A A reading from the first book of Peter:

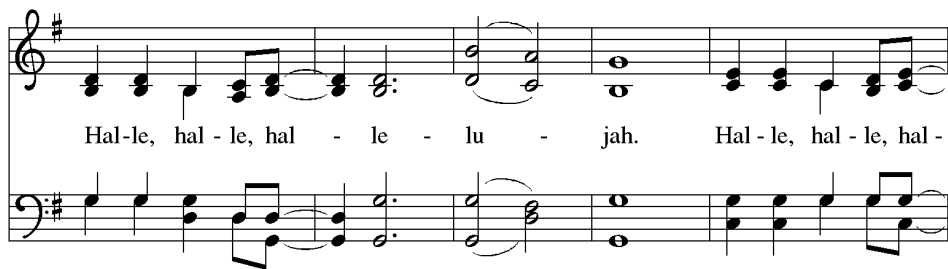
¹³Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? ¹⁴But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, ¹⁵but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you, ¹⁶yet do it with gentleness and respect. Maintain a good conscience so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. ¹⁸For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight lives, were saved through water. ²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him. The word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

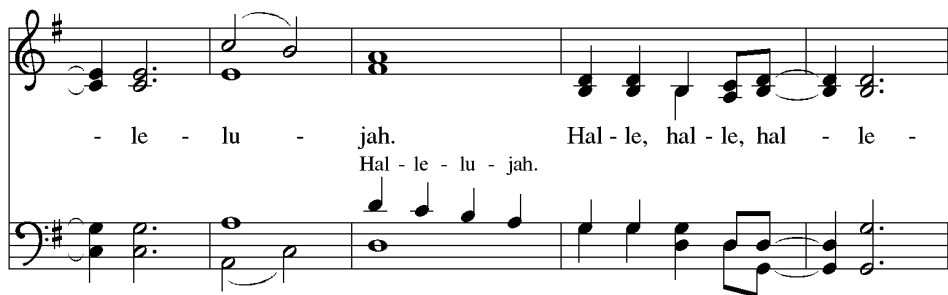
Please stand as able

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah



Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal -



- le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le -
Hal - le - lu - jah.



lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

P The Holy Gospel according to John.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

John 14:15-21

☐ Jesus said to the disciples: ¹⁵“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

¹⁸“I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me, and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.” The Gospel of the Lord.

☑ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated

THE SERMON

Pastor Ben Groth

Please stand as able

HYMN OF THE DAY # 804

Come Down, O Love Divine

1 Come down, O Love di - vine; seek thou this soul of mine
 2 Oh, let it free - ly burn, till world - ly pas - sions turn
 3 Let ho - ly char - i - ty mine out - ward ves - ture be,
 4 And so the year - ning strong, with which the soul will long,

and vis - it it with thine own ar - dor glow - ing;
 to dust and ash - es in its heat con - sum - ing;
 and low - li - ness be - come mine in - ner cloth - ing—
 shall far out - pass the pow'r of hu - man tell - ing;

O Com - fort - er, draw near; with - in my heart ap - pear
 and let thy glo - rious light shine ev - er on my sight,
 true low - li - ness of heart, which takes the hum - bler part,
 no soul can guess Love's grace till it be - come the place

and kin - dle it, thy ho - ly flame be - stow - ing.
 and clothe me round, the while my path il - lum - ing.
 and o'er its own short - com - ings weeps with loath - ing.
 where - in the Ho - ly Spir - it makes a dwell - ing.

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** Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.
- A brief silence.*
- A** God of new life, you call us through the waters of baptism to be in relationship with you and one another. Guide the church and its leaders to proclaim Christ's righteousness throughout the world. Merciful God,
- C** **receive our prayer.**
- A** You set civil servants in the places where we live. Instill truth and equity among judges and lawyers, gentleness and courage among first responders, and peace among leaders of towns and nations. Merciful God,
- C** **receive our prayer.**

- A** You provide comfort in times of trouble. Heal those who are sick, shelter any who are unhoused, feed those undernourished, and accompany and console all who are lonely, bereaved, anxious, or ill especially Linda, Tom, Eileen, Scott, Lin, Jim, Barbara, John, Izzy, Ruth, and Alan. Merciful God,
- C** **receive our prayer.**
- A** You are love and you desire that we love one another. As a mother hen cares for her chicks, bless all who provide motherly care in our lives, and inspire us to care for one another. Merciful God,
- C** **receive our prayer.**
- A** God of new life, your steadfast love endures forever. Inspire us by the example of the faithful departed, who clung to your promises of life, forgiveness of sins, and salvation. Merciful God,
- C** **receive our prayer.**
- A** God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.
- 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.

OFFERING MUSIC

The offering is brought to the altar during the Offertory Response

Please stand as able

THE OFFERTORY RESPONSE

To All Those With Bread

To all those with bread give hun - ger for jus - tice, and to

all those who hun - ger give bread. To

THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

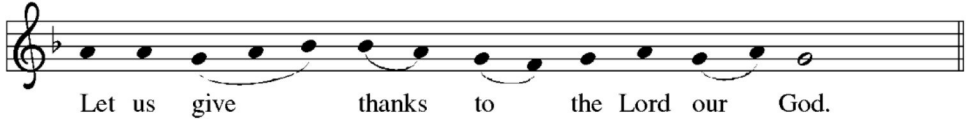
- A** Let us pray. Risen One,
 you call us to believe and bear fruit.
 May the gifts that we offer here
 be signs of your abiding love.
 Form us to be your witnesses in the world,
 through Jesus Christ, our true vine.

C Amen.

Meal

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

THE INITIAL DIALOG



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, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. 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:

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! Ho-san-na in the high-est! Ho-san-na in the high - est! Blest is the
 one who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the
 high-est! Ho - san - na in the high-est! Ho - san - na in the high - est!

THE THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

- ☐ 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

- ☐ Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.
- ☑ **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

☐ Come to the table of new life. Receive the risen Lord.

Please be seated

THE DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

LAMB OF GOD



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
 2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
 3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
 you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
 e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

THE COMMUNION HYMN # 397

Loving Spirit



- 1 Lov - ing Spir - it, lov - ing Spir - it, you have cho - sen me to be—
 2 Like a moth - er you en - fold me, hold my life with - in your own,
 3 Like a fa - ther you pro - tect me, teach me the dis - cern - ing eye,
 4 Friend and lov - er, in your close - ness I am known and held and blessed:
 5 Lov - ing Spir - it, lov - ing Spir - it, you have cho - sen me to be—



you have drawn me to your won - der, you have set your sign on me.
 feed me with your ver - y bod - y, form me of your flesh and bone.
 hoist me up - on your shoul - der, let me see the world from high.
 in your prom - ise is my com - fort, in your pres - ence I may rest.
 you have drawn me to your won - der, you have set your sign on me.



Sending

Please stand as able

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 Shepherding God,
 you have prepared a table before us
 and nourished us with your love.
 Send us forth from this banquet
 to proclaim your goodness
 and share the abundant mercy of Jesus,
 our redeemer and friend.

C Amen

THE BENEDICTION

P Go out into the world in peace;
 have courage;
 hold on to what is good;
 return no one evil for evil;
 strengthen the fainthearted;
 support the weak, and help the suffering;
 honor all people;
 love and serve the Lord,
 rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.
 May the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
 One God, mother of us all,
 Bless you this day and always,

C Amen

THE SENDING HYMN # 392

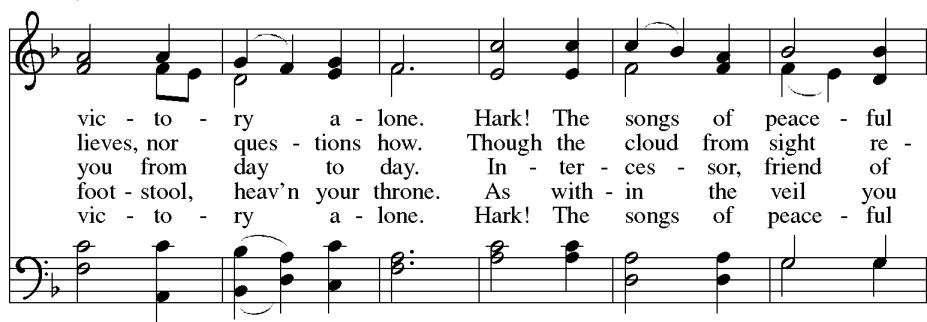
Alleluia! Sing to Jesus



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; his the scep - ter,
 2 Al - le - lu - ia! Not as or - phans are we left in
 3 Al - le - lu - ia! Bread of heav - en, here on earth our
 4 Al - le - lu - ia! King e - ter - nal, Lord om - nip - o -
 5 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; his the scep - ter,



his the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! his the tri - umph, his the
 sor - row now; Al - le - lu - ia! he is near us; faith be -
 food, our stay; Al - le - lu - ia! here the sin - ful flee to -
 tent we own; Al - le - lu - ia! born of Mar - y, earth your
 his the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! his the tri - umph, his the



vic - to - ry a - lone. Hark! The songs of peace - ful
 lieves, nor ques - tions how. Though the cloud from sight re -
 you from day to day. In - ter - ces - sor, friend of
 foot - stool, heav'n your throne. As with - in the veil you
 vic - to - ry a - lone. Hark! The songs of peace - ful

Zi - on thun - der like a might - y flood: "Je - sus
 ceived him when the for - ty days were o'er, shall our
 sin - ners, earth's re - deem - er, hear our plea where the
 en - tered, robed in flesh, our great high priest, here on
 Zi - on thun - der like a might - y flood: "Je - sus

out of ev - 'ry na - tion has re - deemed us by his blood."
 hearts for - get his prom - ise: "I am with you ev - er - more"?
 songs of all the sin - less sweep a - cross the crys - tal sea.
 earth both priest and vic - tim in the eu - cha - ris - tic feast.
 out of ev - 'ry na - tion has re - deemed us by his blood."

THE DISMISSAL

- A** Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!
- C** Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

Thanks to

*Worship Assistant
Gail Bates*

*Communion Assistant
Louise Patterson*

*Reader
Erasmus Gunawan*

*Ushers
John Halverson, Erasmus Gunawan*

*Coffee Hour Goodies
NA*

and

*Videographer
Eric Nilsson*

*for volunteering
to be a part of the service this morning*

People Power for 5/17/2026

Worship Assistant - Nancy Peterson

Communion Assistant - Kris Fletcher

Reader - Kris Fletcher

Ushers - Elaine Borselle, Jane Holmstrom

Coffee Hour Goodies - NA

calendar

- May 11** - Monday, 8am - Morning Mingle
- May 12** - Tuesday, 4pm - Worship & Arts Meeting
- May 12** - Tuesday, 6pm - AA Meeting
- May 13** - Wednesday, 4:30pm - Worship Service
- May 13** - Wednesday, 5-6pm - Pasta Dinner
- May 13** - Wednesday, 6pm - Choir
- May 13** - Wednesday, 6pm - AA Meeting
- May 17** - Sunday, 9:30am - Prayer Group
- May 17** - Sunday, 10am - Worship with Holy Communion
- May 17** - Sunday, 11:15am - Art Class
- May 18** - Monday - Morning Mingle
- May 19** - Tuesday, 6pm - AA Meeting
- May 19** - Tuesday, 7pm - Council Meeting
- May 20** - Wednesday, 4:30pm - Worship Service
- May 20** - Wednesday, 5-6pm - Pasta Dinner
- May 20** - Wednesday, 6pm - Choir
- May 20** - Wednesday, 6pm - AA Meeting
- May 24** - Sunday, 9:30am - Prayer Group
- May 24** - Sunday, 10am - Worship with Holy Communion
- May 25** - Monday, 8am - Morning Mingle
- May 25** - Monday, 5am - Pizza Night
- May 26** - Tuesday, 6pm - AA Meeting
- May 27** - Wednesday, 4:30pm - Worship Service
- May 27** - Wednesday, 5-6pm - Pasta Dinner
- May 27** - Wednesday, 6pm - Choir
- May 27** - Wednesday, 6pm - AA Meeting
- May 31** - Sunday, 9:30am - Prayer Group
- May 31** - Sunday, 10am - Worship with Holy Communion
- June 1** - Monday, 8am - Morning Mingle
- June 2** - Tuesday, 6pm - AA Meeting
- June 2** - Tuesday, 7pm - Executive Meeting

Monday Morning Mingle 8am-9am
 Wednesday Come-As- You-Are Worship Service 4:30pm
 Wednesday Pasta Dinner 5pm-5:45pm
 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; Tom Abucewicz; Eileen Buys
 Scott Johnson (Carol McQueeney);
 Lin, Jim, Barbara (Eileen Buys)
 John Johnson, Izzy Garcia, Ruth Perrone (Jane Holmstrom)
 Alan Peterson (Gail Bates)

Serving in the armed forces:

Nick - Deployed to the Middle East (Laurie Kosich)
 Dylan Cameron - (Robert Buchholz)

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.