

Firelands Presbyterian Church

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Sower and the Devil
Egger-Lienz, Albin, 1868-1926

July 19, 2026

Welcome to Firelands Church, a community of believers gathered by the Holy Spirit, growing together in Christ, and committed to serving God. Everyone is encouraged to stay for fellowship following the worship service.

The Order Of The Liturgy

↑ Please stand in body or in spirit ↑

Prelude

Come Ye Thankful People

Elvey/Rowley

Children of the Heavenly Father/This is My Father's World arr.Vogt

↑ Call to Worship (Psalm 46: 1 – 5, responsively)

1 God is our refuge and strength; a very present help in trouble

2 Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea,

3 though its waters roar and foam,

though the mountains tremble at its swelling.

4 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,

the holy habitation of the Most High.

5 God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved;

God will help her when morning dawns.

↑ Hymn 714

God of the Fertile Fields (1,2,3)

↓ **Call to Confession:** Our sin separates us from a holy and righteous God. Yet, God longs to wrap us in an embrace of forgiveness and love. Let us, therefore, with confidence and gratitude name that which distorts our relationships with God, self and others. Let us pray together:

Prayer of Confession (together)

We arise today through the strength of God. Be our pilot through the waters of this life! Uphold us with Your might, and guard us with Your holiness! May the Gospel save us from the snares of Satan, the temptation of vices, from all who shall wish us harm of the body, the mind or our souls.

We pray today for the heavenly host to come between us and all that is wicked; between us and every cruel power that seeks to destroy; between us and false teachers; between us and the allure of pagan beliefs; between us and those who plot our ruin; between us and every knowledge that corrupts our bodies and our souls.

O Christ, be our Savior this day, and we are abundantly blessed! In Your sweet Name we pray. Amen.

This morning's Prayer of Affirmation and Confession is adapted from the morning thanksgiving prayer found on page 16 of Every Earthly Blessing, edited by Esther de Waal.

Assurance of Pardon

May the God of mercy, who forgives you all your sins, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

Thanks be to God! Amen!

Glory to God - Hymn 585 verse 1 *(together)*

*Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the Highest. Glory to God,
glory to God, glory in the Highest To God be glory forever.
Alleluia, Amen. Alleluia, Amen. Alleluia, Amen.*

Prayer of Illumination *(together)*

God of all glory, on this Lord's Day, grant that we, the people You form by

water and the Spirit, may be joined with all your works in praising you. As we approach your word through Jesus Christ, in union with the Holy Spirit, we praise you now and forever. Amen.

The Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 44: 6 - 8 *(together)*

44:6 Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel, and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts: I am the first, and I am the last; besides me there is no god.

44:7 Who is like me? Let them proclaim it; let them declare and set it forth before me. Who has announced from of old the things to come? Let them tell us what is yet to be.

44:8 Do not fear or be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? You are my witnesses! Is there any god besides me? There is no other rock; I know not one.

The Gospel: Matthew 13: 24 - 30, 36 - 43

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God!

Sermon: This is How It Is for Us Before the World Ends

↑ Affirmation of Faith:

In life and in death, we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve. With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Hymn 465

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

↓ Presentation of Our Gifts, Offerings, and Thanksgiving

↑ **Doxology** - *Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below; Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.....*

↓ Prayers of the Church and the Lord's 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 debts as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Communion Invitation

Hear the words of the institution of the Holy Supper of our Lord Jesus Christ: The Lord Jesus, on the night of his arrest, took bread, and after giving thanks to God, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take, eat. This is my body, broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way he took the cup, saying: "This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me." Every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the saving death of the risen Lord, until he comes. With thanksgiving, let us offer God our grateful praise.

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord's Supper *(approach the table using the center aisle - return using the side aisles)*

The bread which we break is the communion of the body of Christ.

The cup of blessing which we bless is the communion of the blood of Christ.

Communion Meditation

O God, You Search Me

Farrell/Vogt

The Acclamation Let us praise the Lord.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. In Christ shall all be made alive.

Blessing and honor and glory and power be to our God for ever and ever. Amen.

Prayer after Communion.

↑ Hymn 369

Blessing and Honor (1,2,3)

Charge and Benediction

Go out into the world in peace; have courage; hold on to what is good; return no evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the suffering; honor all people; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.

Benediction Response - Hymn 302 verse 5 *(together)*

*Your Spirit gives us differing ways to serve you well and offer praise.
When all are joined --as one, we'll be --your able, strong community.*

Postlude *Rejoice, the Lord is King* Darwall/Innes

Prayer Concerns

Bill Umlauf, Rob Constein, Rob Morris, brother of Judy Smithers; Linda & Garrett Holcomb; Bill & Pat Sharp; Gene Bailey; Karla Hoffman; Flona & Eric Pott; Karen Dietz; Anne Trombatore; Linda Holcomb’s sisters, Lois & Carol; Betty Layton’s friend, Sue; Dan Barlow and family; Sue Holman; All who travel this weekend.

Our church food pantry serves those in need within our community. Kroger food cards and nonperishable food is purchased, packed and delivered to Transitional Housing in Ottawa County monthly. Through this ministry, we provide essential food items such as canned chicken, canned fruit and vegetables, peanut butter, canned soups, pasta, spaghetti sauce, macaroni and cheese, cereal and non refrigerated milk. We also offer personal care items such as toilet paper, soap or shampoo to support everyday needs. Always included are prayers of hope and words of encouragement so every recipient knows Firelands Presbyterian Church cares deeply for them and they are not alone. Thanks so much!

This Week at Firelands: Office Hours 10am - 2pm, T - Th

Today 7/19	10:30am Worship and Fellowship. Assisting in worship will be Karen Salzgeber (Reader) and Deborah & Tim Flora (Communion servers)
Monday	10:00am Sewing Group
Tuesday	1:00pm Nominating Committee 2:00pm - 4:00pm Dulcimer Group
Wednesday	
Thursday	8:00am Cleaning service 3:00pm Choir Rehearsal
Next Sunday 7/26	10:30am Worship and Fellowship. Assisting in worship will be Janet Gray-Moore (Reader) and John & Kay McIntosh (Communion servers)