

Firelands Presbyterian Church

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Christ gives the keys of the Kingdom to Peter

Berte Thorvaldsen, 1770-1844

August 23, 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

He is Lord

arr. Vogt

The Church's One Foundation

Wesley/Larson

Love of Music

Gray Moore/Larcey

Janet Gray Moore, flute

↑ Call to Worship Psalm 67: 1,2 (*responsively*)

1 May God be gracious to us and bless us and make God's face to shine upon us,

2 that God's way may be known upon the earth,

God's saving power among all nations.

Hymn 336

We Gather Together

↓ **Call to Confession:** We turn to God in prayer not because we are compelled but because God invites us. We come to God not because of our righteousness but because of God's grace. In that spirit, we offer this Prayer of Confession, and unburdening.

Prayer of Confession (*together*)

Merciful God, you pardon all who truly repent and turn to you. We humbly confess our sins and ask your mercy. We have not loved you with a pure heart, nor have we loved our neighbor as ourselves. We have not done justice, loved kindness, or walked humbly with you, our God. Have mercy on us, O God, in your loving-kindness. In your great compassion, cleanse us from our sin. Create in us a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within us. Do not cast us from your presence, or take your Holy Spirit from us. Restore to us the joy of your salvation and sustain us with your bountiful Spirit.

Assurance of Pardon

Friends, hear these words, and listen to this good news; the empires of this world will rise and fall, but the mercy of the Lord will never end.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, thanks be to God.

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)*

Almighty God, by your Holy Spirit, illumine the sacred page, we pray, that our minds may be open to receive your Word, our hearts taught to love it, and our wills strengthened to obey it; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 51; 1 - 6

Psalm 124 Green side - Red side

¹ **If it had not been the Lord who was on our side— let Israel now say—**

² **if it had not been the Lord who was on our side**

when people rose up against us,

³ **then they would have swallowed us up alive,**

when their anger was kindled against us;

⁴ **then the flood would have swept us away,**

the torrent would have gone over us;

⁵ **then over us would have gone the raging waters.**

⁶ **Blessed be the Lord, who has not given us as prey to their teeth!**

⁷ **We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowlers;
the snare is broken, and we have escaped!**

⁸ **Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.**

The Gospel:

Matthew 16: 13 - 20

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God!

Sermon:

Sometimes We Get It Right

↑ Affirmation of Faith: Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Hymn 266

Joy to the World

↓ 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.....*

The Peace - The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

↓ **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

The Acclamation Let us praise the Lord.

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

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

Passacaglia

Handel/Halvorson

Prayer after Communion.

↑ **Hymn 620**

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven (vs 1, 2, 4)

Charge and Benediction

As we go forth from this place, our service of worship comes to an end. May our lives of worship and service begin anew with tomorrow's rising sun.

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 **Be the hands, the heart of God. Go into the world and share God's spirit. Spread the message, be the song. Save a little bit, then pass it on. Save a little bit, then pass it on** (*softly*). **Save a little bit and pass it on.**



Prayer Concerns

Linda Holcomb, and Garrett; Connie Brand; David Douglas; Jim Layton; Bill Umlauf; Rob Constein; Rob Morris, brother of Judy Smithers; Linda Holcomb’s sisters, Lois & Carol; Bill & Pat Sharp; Karla Hoffman; Flona & Eric Pott; Karen Dietz; Anne Trombatore; Betty Layton’s friend, Sue; Sue Holman; All who serve and protect.

Announcements

Exploring Our Faith Bible Study meets Wednesday, at 10:30pm.
We meet in the Conference Room with our study guides “The Psalms: The Prayer Book of Jesus. If you don’t have a study guide, bring your Bible as we will read the psalm (Psalm 22) together.

Our Adult Sunday School returns on Sunday, September 13th at 9:30am. This adult class studies the Scripture lessons which are a part of the morning worship service. Follow the sign to the Conference Room at the end of the hallway.

The House of David video series resumes Thursday, September 10th at 2:00pm. This video series dramatizes the life of David, with conversation to follow the video.

The flowers on the communion table are in loving memory of Peggy Boroff and David Dunkin, given by Jerry Boroff and Carolyn Dunkin and in joyous celebration of their union yesterday, August 22, in Delaware, Ohio.

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

Today 8/23		10:30am Worship and Fellowship. Assisting in worship is Ed Carlson , Reader, and Communion servers Gwen Aber & Janet Gray Moore. Coffee Fellowship hosts are Shirley and Ed Carlson.
Monday		10:00am Sewing Group 2:00pm Health & Exercise 4:00pm Bistro 163 Comm. Meal 5:00pm Fresh Bread
Tuesday		9:00am Wilson Quilting Group
Wednesday		10:30am Psalms The Prayer Book of Jesus
Thursday		8:00am Cleaning service
Friday		
Next Sunday 8/30		10:30am Worship and Fellowship. The Reader assisting in worship will be Shirley Carlson, and Communion Servers will be Deb & Tim Flora. Coffee Fellowship hosts will be Dave Moore and Janet Gray Moore