

Firelands Presbyterian Church

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The Late Arriving Workers

Jesus Mafa, 1973

September 20, 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

*Remembrance
How Great Thou Art*

Schumann
arr. Vogt

↑ Call to Worship

As the day's light breaks the darkness of the night,

As the first movements of the morning pierce the night's stillness,

So a new waking to life dawns within me,

So a fresh beginning opens.

In the early light of this day, in the first actions of the morning,

Let me be awake to life.

In my soul and in my seeing, let me be alive to the gift of this day,

Let me be fully alive.

Hymn 41

O Worship the King, All Glorious Above!

↓ **Call to Confession:** Sin afflicts us all. We know what it is like, as Paul described it, to do the very thing we don't want to do, and not be able to do the good that we desire to do. Let us sincerely come before God for confession and repentance.

Prayer of Confession *(together)*

Almighty God, especially on Communion Sunday, we consider how You continually unfold Your creation before us. Season follows season. Life's joys mingle with life's challenges in a pattern displaying Your Truth and Goodness. Lord, we confess we comprehend only fragments of Your divine plan. Teach us to open ourselves to the wonders of Your providence. Guide

us into paths of righteousness that lay right in front of us. Draw us into Your counsels of wisdom as we open our minds and hearts before You. Include us in Your grand invitation to Life Eternal, as we pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace. Believe the Good News!

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven; thanks be to God!

Glory to God - Hymn 447 (together)

We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.
We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

Prayer of Illumination (together)

Prepare our hearts, O God, to accept your Word. Silence in us any voice but your own, that, hearing we may also obey your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Old Testament Lesson: Psalm 145: 1 - 10

- ¹ I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever.
- ² Every day I will bless you and praise your name forever and ever.
- ³ Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised, and God’s greatness is unsearchable.
- ⁴ One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts.
- ⁵ On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.

- ⁶ They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds, and I will declare your greatness.
- ⁷ They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant goodness and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.
- ⁸ The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
- ⁹ The Lord is good to all, and the Lord’s mercy is over all that God has made.
- ¹⁰ All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord, and all your saints shall bless you!

The Gospel: Matthew 20: 1- 16

The Word of the Lord Thanks be to God!

Sermon: When God is the Boss

↑ Affirmation of Faith: Heidelberg Confession

- Q. 1. What is your only comfort, in life and in death?
A. That I belong—body and soul, in life and in death—not to myself but to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ, who at the cost of his own blood has fully paid for all my sins and has completely freed me from the dominion of the devil; that he protects me so well that without the will of my Father in heaven not a hair can fall from my head; indeed, that everything must fit his purpose for my salvation. Therefore, by his Holy Spirit, he also assures me of eternal life, and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.

Hymn 508 *Come to the Table*

↓ Presentation of Our Gifts, Offerings, and Thanksgiving

↑ Doxology - Hymn 609 *(together)*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Alleluia, alleluia! Praise God, in Jesus fully known: Creator, Word and Spirit one. Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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 *Come, Share the Lord* Leech/Hayes

Prayer after Communion

↑ Hymn 36 *For the Fruit of All Creation*

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 *(together)* ***May you run and not be weary. May your heart be filled with song. And may the love of God continue to give you***

hope and keep you strong. And may you run and not be weary. May your life be filled with joy! And may the road you travel always lead you home.

Postlude On Our Way Rejoicing Havergal/Osmann



Prayer Concerns

Connie Brand’s family and friends; Linda Holcomb, and Garrett, David Douglas Dottie’s son, and Dottie; John Vardyon; Jim Layton; Bill Umlauf; Rob Constein; Rob Morris, Judy Smithers’ brother; 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; Karen Salzgeber’s friend Becky Deredick; Nancy Herl, friend of Karen and Jay Viery; All those under a doctor’s care; All who travel this weekend.

Announcements

Exploring Our Faith Bible Study will not meet until Wednesday, September 30th, at 10:30am in the Conference Room, when we begin a study of the Apostles' Creed.

Sometimes Serendipity Singers meet in the Sanctuary this Wednesday at 3:00pm.

Thursday Video meets this week on September 24th. We hope to encourage you to make use of visual media to learn more about living your faith in God. “The House of David” is the featured video, with conversation to follow.

Our Adult Sunday School meets at 9:30am in the Conference Room. This adult class studies the Scripture lessons which are a part of the morning worship service.

JESUS MAFA is a response to the New Testament readings from the Lectionary by a Christian community in Cameroon, Africa. Each of the readings was selected and

adapted to dramatic interpretation by the community members. Photographs of their interpretations were made, and these were then transcribed to paintings.

This Week at Firelands: Office Hours 10am - 2pm, Tue.-Thurs

Today 09/20		9:30am Adult Sunday School .10:30am 10:30am Worship and Fellowship. The Reader assisting in worship is Karen Salzgeber. Communion Servers are Karen and Jay Viery. Coffee Fellowship Hosts are Debbie and Tim Flora.
Monday		10:00am Sewing Group
Tuesday		9:00am Wilson Quilting 1:00pm Worship & Music Meeting 2:00pm Dulcimer Group
Wednesday		3:00pm Choir Rehearsal
Thursday		8:00am Cleaning Service 2:00pm House of David - video
Friday		
Next Sunday 09/27		9:30am Adult Sunday School 10:30am Worship and Fellowship. Dennis Walls is preaching.The Reader is Susan Rogers. Communion Servers are Marilyn Umlauf & Karen Dietz. Coffee Fellowship Hosts are Dan & Deb Barlow. 3:00pm Musical Arts Series - Adam Brakel at Immaculate Conception Church.