

Firelands Presbyterian Church

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Carrying the cross of Christ

Gabriel Loire, 1904-1996

August 30, 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

from Cello Suite No2

Bach

↑ **Call to Worship** Psalm 122: 1, 2 (*responsively*)

1 I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come?

2 My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

3 God will not let your foot be moved; God who keeps you will not slumber.

4 Behold, the Lord who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

Hymn 610 *O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing* (vs 1, 2, 3)

↓ **Call to Confession:** If we say we have no sin, the truth is not in us. We admit that we need to begin again for we have fallen short of the glory of God. So we come to the baptismal font seeking a fresh start. With confidence that God hears our prayers, let us confess our sins:

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.

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)

God, source of all light, by your Word, you give light to the soul. Pour out on us the spirit of wisdom and understanding, that our hearts and minds may be opened to know your truth and your way. Amen.

The Old Testament Lesson: Psalm 26: 1 - 8

Special Music Prelude No 15 Chopin

The Gospel: Matthew 16: 21 - 28
The Word of the Lord Thanks be to God!

Sermon: How Will You Find Your Life After Death?

↑ Affirmation of Faith: Romans 12: 9 - 21

- 12:9 Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good;
12:10 Love one another with mutual affection;
outdo one another in showing honor.
12:11 Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord.
12:12 Rejoice in hope; be patient in afflictions, persevere in prayer.
12:13 Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers.
12:14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.
12:15 Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep.
12:16 Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are.
12:17 Do not repay anyone evil for evil,
but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all.
12:18 If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.
12:19 Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God,
for it is written, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord."
12:20 Instead, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them;
if they are thirsty, give them something to drink,
for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads."
12:21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

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

Hymn 228 Were You There?

↓ 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

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 *Andante from Cello Concerto 2* Boccherini

Prayer after Communion.

↑ **Hymn 724** *O Jesus, I Have Promised*

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 travel this weekend.

Announcements

Exploring Our Faith Bible Study meets Wednesday, September 2nd, 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.

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.

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.

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

We welcome Brian Shifflet this morning as our Guest Musician. Thank you, Brian, for sharing yourself with us through music.

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

Today 8/30		10:30am Worship and Fellowship. The Reader assisting in worship is Shirley Carlson. Communion Servers are Deb & Tim Flora. Dave Moore and Janet Gray Moore host coffee fellowship.
Monday		10:00am Sewing Group 2:00pm Health & Exercise
Tuesday		2-4pm Dulcimer Group
Wednesday		10:30am Exploring Our Faith
Thursday		8:00am Cleaning Service
Friday		8:00am Men’s Group Meeting Fulton Street Cafe
Next Sunday 9/6		10:30am Worship and Fellowship. The Reader assisting in worship will be Janet Gray-Moore. Communion Servers will be Dave & Sally Wahlers. Coffee Fellowship Hosts are needed.