

First Lutheran Church

An ELCA Congregation

Celebrating 176 years of continuous ministry in Galveston!



Sunday, October 4, 2026

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 AM Worship & Communion

Welcome!

*ALL are welcome here! Believers, doubters, people
with questions, people with pasts, all walks of
life...People!
We are thankful that YOU are here!*



In today's gospel reading, Jesus tells a vineyard parable, which serves as an image of Israel, the prophets' mission, and Christ's death. For Christians, the vineyard also speaks of God's love poured out in the blood of Christ, given to us for the forgiveness of sin. Grafted onto Christ the vine at baptism, we are nourished with wine and bread so that we may share Christ's sufferings and know the power of his resurrection

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

October 4, 2026

Holy Communion 10:00am

Prelude & Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Confession & Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth. **Amen.**

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,
we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts.
Creation groans from overuse.
Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships.
Indifference keeps us from seeking justice.
Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. We have sinned in thought, word and deed.
Turn our hearts back to you.
Restore our world and reconcile us to one another.
Renew us to live as your holy people,
following the way of Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Hear this good news:
We have peace with God through ✠ Jesus Christ,
in whom there is no condemnation,
but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life.
Receive freely this healing gift of grace

Amen.

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross



1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross on which the
2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast save in the
3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sor - row and
4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were a



prince of glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I
death of Christ, my God; all the vain things that
love flow min - gled down. Did e'er such love and
trib - ute far too small; love so a - maz - ing,



count but loss and pour con - tempt on all my pride.
charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.
sor - row meet, or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all!

Apostolic Greeting

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

All And also with you.



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, the high - est, and



peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



1 Lord God, heav-en - ly King, al - might-y God and Fa - ther,



we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you



for your glo - ry. Glo - ry to God in the high-



est, the high - est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God,



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the

right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

Refrain

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, the high - est, and

peace to God's peo - ple on earth. 3 For you a -

lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,

you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the

Ho - ly Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.

A - men. A - men. A - men.

Final refrain

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, the high - est, and peace to God's

peo - ple on earth. Glo - ry to God in the high -

est, the high - est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

Prayer of the Day

Beloved God, from you come all things that are good. Lead us by the inspiration of your Spirit to know those things that are right, and by your merciful guidance, help us to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Children's Message

Children are invited forward for a special message with Ms. Krista!

Word

God speaks to us in scripture, preaching and song.

First Reading: Isaiah 5:1-7

The prophet sings a sad, parable-like love song about the relationship between God and Israel. In this song Israel is compared to a promising vineyard. Despite God's loving care, the vineyard that is Israel has brought forth "rotten grapes" of injustice and distress, when fine grapes of justice and righteousness were expected.

Lector The first reading comes from Isaiah the 5th chapter.

I will sing for my beloved
my love song concerning his vineyard:
My beloved had a vineyard
on a very fertile hill.

² He dug it and cleared it of stones

and planted it with choice vines;
he built a watchtower in the midst of it
and hewed out a wine vat in it;
he expected it to yield grapes,
but it yielded rotten grapes.

³ And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem
and people of Judah,
judge between me
and my vineyard.

⁴ What more was there to do for my vineyard
that I have not done in it?
When I expected it to yield grapes,
why did it yield rotten grapes?

⁵ And now I will tell you
what I will do to my vineyard.
I will remove its hedge,
and it shall be devoured;
I will break down its wall,
and it shall be trampled down.

⁶ I will make it a wasteland;
it shall not be pruned or hoed,
and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns;
I will also command the clouds
that they rain no rain upon it.

⁷ For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts
is the house of Israel,
and the people of Judah
are his cherished garden;
he expected justice

but saw bloodshed;
righteousness
but heard a cry!

Word of God. Word of life.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 80:7-15



Look down from heav'n, O God; be - hold and tend this vine.

⁷ Restore us, O | God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be
saved.

⁸ **You have brought a vine | out of Egypt;**
you cast out the nations and | planted it.

⁹ You cleared the | ground for it;
it took root and | filled the land.

¹⁰ **The mountains were covered | by its shadow**
and the towering cedar trees | by its boughs. R

¹¹ You stretched out its tendrils | to the sea
and its branches | to the river.

¹² **Why have you broken | down its wall,**
so that all who pass by pluck | off its grapes?

¹³ The wild boar of the forest has | ravaged it,
and the beasts of the field have | grazed upon it.

¹⁴ **Turn now, O | God of hosts,**
look | down from heaven;

¹⁵ behold and | tend this vine;
preserve what your right | hand has planted. **R**

Second Reading: Philippians 3:4b-14

Paul reviews some of his supposed credentials, which no longer have any bearing in comparison to the right relationship he has been given through the death of Christ. The power of Christ's resurrection motivates him to press on toward the ultimate goal, eternal life with Christ.

Lector The second reading comes from Philippians the 3rd chapter.

^{4b} If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

⁷ Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ.

⁸ More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on

faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹² Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal, but I press on to lay hold of that for which Christ has laid hold of me. ¹³ Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I have laid hold of it, but one thing I have laid hold of: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal, toward the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

Word of God. Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand as able to receive the gospel.



Gospel

Pastor The holy gospel according to St. Matthew,
the 21st chapter.

All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Gospel: Matthew 21:33-46

Jesus tells a parable to the religious leaders who are plotting his death, revealing that their plans will, ironically, bring about the fulfillment of scripture.

Jesus said:] ³³ "Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a winepress in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went away. ³⁴ When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. ³⁵ But

the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶ Again he sent other slaves, more than the first, and they treated them in the same way. ³⁷ Then he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' ³⁸ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.' ³⁹ So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. ⁴⁰ Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" ⁴¹ They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time."

Pastor The gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

Sermon

The Rev. Richard Rhoades

Please use the Sermon Questions in the Yellow Pages to go deeper in your reflections on the sermon this week.

Please stand as able.

Lord Christ, When First You Came to Earth



1 Lord Christ, when first you came to earth, up -
 2 O awe - some Love, which finds no room in
 3 New ad - vent of the love of Christ, will
 4 O wound - ed hands of Je - sus, build in



on a cross they bound you, and mocked your sav - ing
 life where sin de - nies you, and, doomed to death, shall
 we a - gain re - fuse you, till in the night of
 us your new cre - a - tion; our pride is dust, our



king - ship's worth by thorns with which they crowned you. And
 bring to doom the pow'r that cru - ci - fies you, till
 hate and war we per - ish as we lose you? From
 vaunt is stilled; we wait your rev - e - la - tion. O



still our wrongs may fash - ion now new thorns to pierce that
 not a stone is left on stone, and then the na - tions'
 an - cient doubts our minds re - lease to seek the king - dom
 Love that tri - umphs o - ver loss, we bring our hearts be -



stead - y brow, and robe of sor - row round you.
 pride, o'er - thrown, will nev - er - more de - fy you!
 of your peace, by which a - lone we choose you.
 fore your cross; come, fin - ish your sal - va - tion.

CREED

Let us join in confessing the Christian faith with the words of the Apostles' Creed

**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.**

Prayers of Intercession

Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

Please stand as able.



God of every generation, we give thanks for all who have sought to renew and transform your holy church including Theodor Fliedner, renewer of society. We lift up Bishops Curry, Breashears-Schulz, and Haddad, our international partners in Peru, the Central African Republic, and the Maasai in Tanzania as they live their calling to spread the Gospel. Inspire us to follow their example in our own day. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of every creature, bless and protect the earth and all those who dwell within it. We give thanks for those who have helped us to see your Spirit in creation including Francis of Assisi, renewer of the church. Help us to treat the world, your creatures, and their habitats with curiosity and respect. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of every tribe and nation, restore peace to the world's conflict zones including Ukraine, Israel, Palestine and Gaza, and Iran and the Middle East. Shelter those who live within war and conflict zones. We pray especially for the safety of displaced people and refugees. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of every comfort, you made us in your own image. Grant healing and relief to all who are sick or suffering, including Diane, Don, Daniel, Ann, those on our sustaining prayer list, and those we name now . . . Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of every truth, you draw us nearer to you through your holy word. We give thanks for teachers of the faith. Fill their hearts with your Spirit, that they inspire others with your truth. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of every soul, you are the one who calls us home. We give thanks for all the saints who have been restored to perfect unity with you. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**



Trusting in your boundless grace, O God, we lift up these spoken prayers and those in our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Passing the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also, with you.

Offering

For those who wish to donate online the QR code will take you to the online giving page.



Please stand as able.

Offering Song

O God beyond All Praising



1 O God be-yond all prais - ing, we wor-ship you to - day
2 The flow'r of earth - ly splen - dor in time must sure - ly die,
3 Then hear, O gra - cious Sav - ior, ac - cept the love we bring,



and sing the love a - maz - ing that songs can-not re - pay;
its frag - ile bloom sur - ren - der to you, the Lord most high;
that we who know your fa - vor may serve you as our King;



for we can on - ly won - der at ev - 'ry gift you send,
but hid - den from all na - ture the e - ter - nal seed is sown—
and wheth - er our to - mor - rows be filled with good or ill,



at bless-ings with - out num - ber and mer-cies with - out end:
though small in mor - tal stat - ure, to heav-en's gar - den grown:
we'll tri-umph through our sor - rows and rise to bless you still:



we lift our hearts be - fore you and wait up - on your word,
for Christ, your gift from heav - en, from death has set us free,
to mar - vel at your beau - ty and glo - ry in your ways,



we hon - or and a - dore you, our great and might - y Lord.
and we through him are giv - en the fi - nal vic - to - ry.
and make a joy - ful du - ty our sac - ri - fice of praise.

Offering Prayer

God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always. **Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving

Pastor The Lord be with you.

All And also with you

Pastor Lift up your hearts

All We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor Let us give thanks to the lord our God.

All It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy, Holy, Holy

(ELW 413)

All Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty!

Heav'n and earth are full of your glory and your grace.

**Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who
Comes in the name of the Lord God most high.**

*Pastor In the night that Jesus was betrayed, in an
upper room,
He took the bread and blessed it as he said,
Here's my body broken for you.*

*He took the cup and raised it up on high,
bowed his head and prayed,
And then he said my blood for you is shed,
a cleansing stream to wash your sins away.*

**All Come and see the Glory of the Lord,
come behold the Lamb,
Come and taste the mercy of the King,
bowing down before him.
For He is Lord above the heavens,
Lord in all the earth
Lord of all the angels,
Worthy to be served.**

**Alleluia, Alleluia
Alleluia, Lord.**

Lord's Prayer

Let us pray as Jesus taught us.

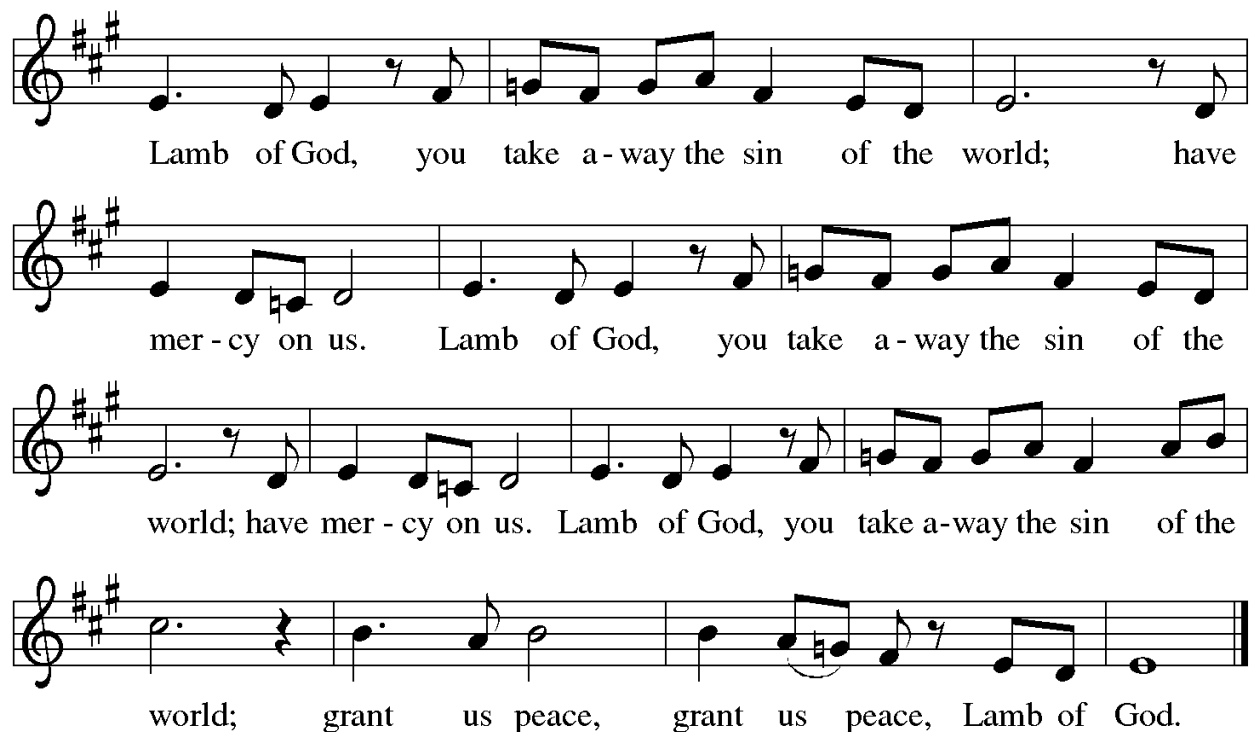
**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy
name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth
as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those
who trespass against us; and lead us not into
temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the
kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and
ever. Amen.**

Invitation To Communion

Christ invites you to this table.

All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

Communion Song



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

Please be seated.

Reception of Holy Communion

Music during the reception of Holy Communion

Distribution

Ushers will guide you to receive communion. Gluten free wafers are available from the Pastor. Both red wine and white grape juice are offered in the trays. For a blessing, come forward with your arms folded over your chest. A Healing Prayer Station is in the back of the room.

Communion Hymns

Jesus Loves Me!

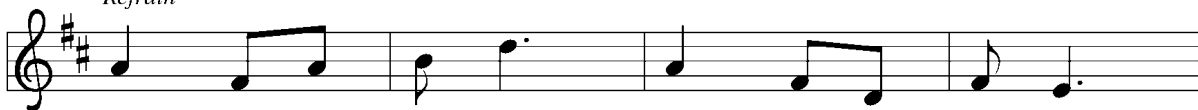


1 Je - sus loves me! this I know, for the Bi - ble tells me so;
2 Je - sus loves me! he who died heav - en's gates to o - pen wide;
3 Je - sus loves me! he will stay close be - side me all the way;



lit - tle ones to him be - long, they are weak, but he is strong.
he will wash a - way my sin, let his lit - tle child come in.
when at last I come to die, he will take me home on high.

Refrain

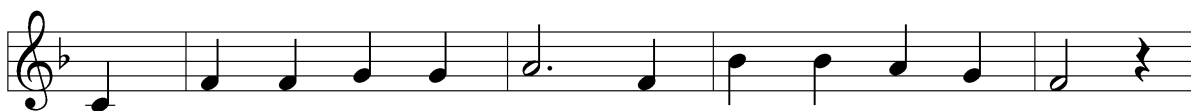


Yes, Je - sus loves me, yes, Je - sus loves me,



yes, Je - sus loves me, the Bi - ble tells me so.

My Song Is Love Unknown



1 My song is love un - known, my Sav - ior's love to me,
 2 He came from his blest throne, sal - va - tion to be - stow;
 3 Some - times they strew his way and his sweet prais - es sing;
 4 Why, what hath my Lord done? What makes this rage and spite?



love to the love - less shown, that they might love - ly be.
 but men made strange, and none the longed-for Christ would know.
 re - sound-ing all the day ho - san - nas to their King.
 He made the lame to run, he gave the blind their sight.



Oh, who am I, that for my sake my Lord should take frail
 But, oh, my friend, my friend in - deed, who at my need his
 Then "Cru - ci - fy!" is all their breath, and for his death they
 Sweet in - ju - ries! Yet they at these them - selves dis - please, and



flesh and die? My Lord should take frail flesh and die?
 life did spend; who at my need his life did spend!
 thirst and cry, and for his death they thirst and cry.
 'gainst him rise; them - selves dis - please, and 'gainst him rise.

5 They rise, and needs will have my dear Lord made away; a murderer they save, the prince of life they slay. Yet cheerful he to suff'ring goes, that he his foes from thence might free.	6 In life, no house, no home my Lord on earth might have; in death, no friendly tomb but what a stranger gave. What may I say? Heav'n was his home; but mine the tomb wherein he lay.
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7 Here might I stay and sing—
 no story so divine!
 Never was love, dear King,
 never was grief like thine.
 This is my friend, in whose sweet praise
 I all my days could gladly spend!

Please stand as able.

Communion Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ ✝ strengthen and preserve you in eternal life. **Amen.**

Prayer

Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.
Amen.

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Blessing

The God of love
draw you into full accord and one mind,
in the body of Christ Jesus.

Amen.

The God of hope
grant you strength and joy in all circumstances
through the interceding of the Spirit.

Amen.

The God of grace
✝ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Thine the Amen



1 Thine the a - men thine the praise al - le - lu - ias an - gels raise
 2 Thine the life e - ter - nal - ly thine the prom - ise let there be
 3 Thine the tru - ly thine the yes thine the ta - ble we the guest
 4 Thine the king - dom thine the prize thine the won - der full sur - prise
 5 Thine the glo - ry in the night no more dy - ing on - ly light



thine the ev - er - last - ing head thine the break - ing of the bread
 thine the vi - sion thine the tree all the earth on bend - ed knee
 thine the mer - cy all from thee thine the glo - ry yet to be
 thine the ban - quet then the praise then the jus - tice of thy ways
 thine the riv - er thine the tree then the Lamb e - ter - nal - ly



thine the glo - ry thine the sto - ry thine the har - vest then the cup
 gone the nail - ing gone the rail - ing gone the plead - ing gone the cry
 then the ring - ing and the sing - ing then the end of all the war
 thine the glo - ry thine the sto - ry then the wel - come to the least
 then the ho - ly ho - ly ho - ly cel - e - bra - tion ju - bi - lee



thine the vine - yard then the cup is lift - ed up lift - ed up.
 gone the sigh - ing gone the dy - ing what was loss lift - ed high.
 thine the liv - ing thine the lov - ing ev - er - more ev - er - more.
 then the won - der all in - creas - ing at thy feast at thy feast.
 thine the splen - dor thine the bright - ness on - ly thee on - ly thee.

Dismissal

Jesus calls us to be a community,
embracing all; nourishing mind, body and spirit.

We go into the world

Following Jesus – Loving All!

Go out in joy! Be led forth in peace!

Thanks be to God. And we will!

Postlude

Email: flcg@firstlutherangalveston.com

www.firstlutherangalveston.com

Church Office Hours, Monday – Thursday
9:00am to 12:00pm, 12:30pm to 3:00pm

The People of First Lutheran, Ministers

The Reverend Richard A. Rhoades, Senior Pastor

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Krista Scheuerman, Youth, Family & Communications

youth@firstlutherangalveston.com

Don F. Hermanson, Director of Music/Organist

Annie Blanken, Executive Director, Fanfare Lutheran Music Academy

Christina Muehe, Director, Lyceum

Kim Robles, Nursery (Wiggle Room)

Let Us Know You Are Here!



ISLAND OKTOBERFEST

Friday, October 23, 5:00 pm – 11:00 pm

Saturday, October 24, 11:00 am – 11:00 pm



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Set Up

Baking Cakes and Sweets

Multiple Booths

Kitchen Duty

Clean Up

EVERYONE'S HELP IS NEEDED!

Sign-Up Today!!