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Ways to Give



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Cash or check via **offering envelopes** during the service.



WE ARE HERE FOR YOU!

Our *FLC Care Team* is here to support you through life's moments—both joyful and challenging. Whether you are celebrating an exciting life event, such as a new baby or home, or if you are walking through illness or loss, we want to be there for you.

We would love to visit & we have homemade meals prepared & ready to share. Let us care for you or someone you know.



You may visit the church office or reach out to Sue Jorgenson (701) 421-7049
Cindy Geiger (701) 770-1741

Sunday, August 23rd Scripture readings will be:

First Reading: Isaiah 51:1-6

Responsive Reading: Psalm 138

Second Reading: Romans 12:1-8

Gospel: Matthew 16:13-20



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Watford City

212 2nd St NW, Watford City, ND 58854



August 16th, 2026

Church Year Reflections

Today's Scripture: *In Isaiah we hear that God's house shall be a house of prayer for all people and that God will gather the outcasts of Israel. The Canaanite woman in today's gospel is a Gentile, an outsider, who is unflinching in her request that Jesus heal her daughter. As Jesus commends her bold faith, how might our church extend its mission to those on the margins of society? In our gathering around word and meal we receive strength to be signs of comfort, healing, and justice for those in need. Today's altar parameters are green to symbolize growth in faith, new life, and fruitfulness. The tradition of using green after Holy Trinity Sunday developed over time alongside the liturgy itself.*

FLC Mission Statement

Sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ, we're sent to proclaim the praise of God and bear His creative and redeeming Word of the kingdom to all the world.

Please keep in your prayers

† Barb & Ron Quale
† Darin Swensrud
† Donna Lou Sanford
† Eleanor Kostad
† Jenn Wisness
† Jessica Wisness Burns
† Keith Schmidt

† Laurie Stenehjelm
† Melinda Haugeberg
† Paul Young
† Rory Johnsrud
† Vicky Swanson
*For prayer requests, contact the church office
@ 701-444-3244 or office@flcwc.church*

Hymn Corner

(For *Precious Lord, Take My Hand*, see [Hymn Corner](#) from August 2, 2026.)

First published in 1994, *All Are Welcome* has fast become one of several unofficial theme songs for the ELCA. Hymnwriter Marty Haugen says that this song is “an attempt to reflect the ‘welcome to table’ fellowship that Jesus offered unconditionally to everyone.” Written as a gift for Haugen’s former pastor and congregation to use for the dedication of their new church, it’s quickly become a gift to liturgical English-speaking congregations around the globe.

Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service has an intriguing 20th century ecumenical history: it was the result of a call by the National Council of Churches for new hymns on the subject of social welfare which were to be featured at their conference in 1961. Out of more than 200 entries, this hymn was one of the seven that were selected to be featured at the conference. Albert F. Bayly’s text is frequently paired with the BEACH SPRING tune (although other tunes have also been chosen for it throughout its history). The tune was published in the famous *Sacred Harp* southern white spirituals songbook of 1844: composer Benjamin Franklin White was a self-taught singing school teacher from South Carolina. *The Sacred Harp* became the most widely used songbook utilizing four-shape notation (also known as shaped notes), and it’s still in print today: after many editions throughout its 182-year history, it’s now published as *Sacred Harp Sings*. The father of 14 children, White was the youngest of 14 children himself: besides his compositions, song editing, and publishing, he also worked as a newspaper editor, court clerk, and town mayor, along with serving in the Georgia militia.

With lyrics written by Isaac Watts and the tune (DUKE STREET) composed by John Hatton, *Jesus Shall Reign* is one of the very first (if not the actual first) English-language missionary hymns written. First published in 1719 in *Psalms of David*, it’s Watts’ Christ-focused paraphrase of Psalm 72. Known as the father of English hymnody, Watts argued for hymns and against the Calvinist practice of singing only metrical psalms. Although his 600+ hymns and psalm paraphrases were hotly opposed initially, his works became ubiquitous over time and founded the field of English hymnody as we know it today. Watts’ educational life was somewhat unusual: although he could have attended a university in England, he instead chose to follow in his father’s footsteps and enrolled in a Nonconformist academy (Isaac’s father’s decision to do this himself many years earlier had resulted in jail time). After graduation, he became an assistant minister and then a senior minister at Dissenting Mark Lane congregation for the rest of this life. He wrote more than 60 books on a wide variety of subjects (astronomy, geography, and logic, to name a few), and some of these books were utilized at British universities alongside American institutions such as Harvard and Yale.

(Source: *Hymnal Companion to Evangelical Lutheran Worship*)

Upcoming Events

August 16th, Sunday

9:30am Worship / Communion
10:30am Fellowship

August 17th & 24th, Monday

1pm Quilting

August 18th, Tuesday

10am Text Study
2pm Food Pantry

August 19th, Wednesday

6:30pm Bible Study

August 23rd, Sunday

9:30am Worship
10:30am Fellowship
10:45am Council Meeting

August 25th, Tuesday

10am Text Study

August 26th, Wednesday

6-8pm Rally Day

August 29th, Saturday

3pm New Bishop Installation in Dickinson

name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Communion Invitation

Lord’s Prayer pg 221

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; 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.

Lamb of God pg 146

*Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.*

Communion Hymns

What Wondrous Love Is This (#666), Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil (#512), God Extends an Invitation (#486)

Benediction Prayer

*Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever. **Amen***

Blessing

*Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always. **Amen.***

Sending Hymn *Jesus Shall Reign* (vs 1,2,4) #434

Dismissal *United in Christ, together we serve.* **Thanks be to God.**

† † †

Sunday, August 16th, 2026

Gathering Hymn *Precious Lord, Take My Hand* (v 1) #773

Announcements

* Confession & Forgiveness ** pg 211

*Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures for-ever. **Amen.***

*Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no se-crets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.***

*Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Most merciful God, **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.***

*God promises to forgive our iniquity and to remember our sin no more. By grace you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ, the source of eternal healing, your sins are for-given. **Amen***

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

Kyrie pg 213

*Lord, have mercy: **Lord, have mercy.***

*Christ, have mercy: **Christ, have mercy.***

*Lord, have mercy: **Lord, have mercy.***

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God’s people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you

* Please stand as you are comfortable and able. ** Our summer liturgy begins on pg 210 of our red hymnal.

thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Share the Peace

Special Music

Prayer of the Day

God of all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

*** Opening Hymn** *All Are Welcome* (vs 1,2,5) **#641**

First Reading *Isaiah 56:1,6-8*

Responsive Reading *Psalms 67*

L: May God be merciful to us and bless us; may the light of God's face shine upon us.

R: Let your way be known upon earth, your saving health among all nations.

L: Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

R: Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the nations on earth.

L: Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

R: The earth has brought forth its increase; God, our own God, has blessed us.

L: May God give us blessing, and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe.

Second Reading *Romans 11:1-2a,29-32*

Gospel Acclamation

R: Glory to you, O Lord.

*** Gospel** *Matthew 15:21-28*

R: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Message

Sermon

*** Hymn of the Day** *Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service* (vs 1,4) **#712**

Apostles' Creed **pg 217**

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 **pg 218**

*L: With bold trust in God's unfailing provision, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation. Please respond to Merciful God with **Receive our prayer**.*

Special Music

*** Offering Song** *Doxology* **#883** (tune) **#884** (text)

Offering Prayer

Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever. Amen.

Thanksgiving for the Word (spoken) **pg 144**

L: The Lord be with you. R: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts. R: We lift them to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. R: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

L: It is indeed right..... to join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy (spoken) **pg 144**

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the