

September 7, 2025; 9:00 am

Holy Communion

We Gather Together

***Welcome** to today's Service of Worship. Whether you are with us in person, joining us live on zoom, watching on our YouTube channel, or listening on KFIZ, we are glad you are here. For those in person, please use the time before worship to fill in the Friendship Pad in your pew. We extend a special welcome to our visitors, and if you have not already received your welcome gift, please pick one up as you leave the sanctuary after worship.*

Prelude: "Prelude and Fugue in C Major, BWV 553" by J.S. Bach

Please use this time to prepare your heart for worship. As the Light of Christ symbolically enters this worship space, we are reminded of God's presence in our lives, calling us to be a reflection of the light of Christ in all we do and say. The 9:00 a.m. bell toll reminds us of God's call to pause from our busy lives and turn our full attention to the joyful praise of God's glory.

Welcome & Announcements

***Call to Worship**

Look around. What wonders we behold!

We see others, gathered here to worship and praise God.

Each person here is a unique, beloved creation of God.

Each person here is given special gifts and talents by God.

Come, let us worship God who has blessed us so mightily.

Let us praise God with our whole hearts, souls, minds, and spirits. AMEN.

*** Opening Prayer**

Lord, from the very beginning of your creation, you breathed your love in to all that you made. You gave us the breath of life and asked us to be good stewards of all creation. You placed your trust and love in us. Help us to turn again with joyful hearts to you, placing our trust in all that you have done for us. Let us be a blessing for you. AMEN.

***Hymn: GTG 839 "Blessed Assurance"**

***Call to Confession** (*Hebrews 4:14-16*)

Remember that our Lord Jesus can sympathize with us in our weakness, since in every respect he was tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with boldness approach the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

***Prayer of Confession**

Forgiving God, we have messed up in so many ways. You gave us a wonderful world, filled with beauty, power, and majesty, and we have ravaged it - tearing away at its gifts with our own greed and cowardice. We have not treated this world or one another with compassionate love. We have turned our backs on situations of need in which we could have been instruments of help, healing, and peace. We have neglected service to others and have focused our lives on accumulating things and status. We have chased after false gods - greed, power, fame. You are the potter, O Lord. You fashioned us, but we focused on developing our flaws rather than working with our strengths.

Silent Confession

(In the silence of our hearts we confess our sins to God.)

Please forgive us, Lord. **Refashion us to be your people, celebrating your love in service to others. For we ask this in the name of Jesus Christ. AMEN.**

***Assurance of Pardon**

Hear the good news! The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, that we might be dead to sin, and alive to all that is good. I declare to you in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

***Sharing God's Peace**

Hear these instructions from Ephesians 4:32: Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.

The Peace of Christ be with you! **And also, with you!**

(Please share the Peace of Christ with those around you using the ancient formula 'The Peace of Christ.' 'And also, with you.' Please be mindful of those who do not wish to shake hands or be too close.)

***Hymn: GTG 583 "Glory to God"**

God's Word Is Proclaimed

Psalm Reading: Psalm 1 (Common English Bible)

page 489 in the pew Bible (NRSV), page 665 (CEB)

The truly happy person
doesn't follow wicked advice,
doesn't stand on the road of sinners,
and doesn't sit with the disrespectful.

**Instead of doing those things,
these persons love the Lord's Instruction,
and they recite God's Instruction day and night!**

They are like a tree replanted by streams of water,
which bears fruit at just the right time
and whose leaves don't fade.
Whatever they do succeeds.

That's not true for the wicked!

They are like dust that the wind blows away.

And that's why the wicked will have no standing in the court of justice—
neither will sinners
in the assembly of the righteous.

**The Lord is intimately acquainted
with the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked is destroyed.**

Gospel Reading: Luke 14:25-33 (Common English Bible)

page 78 in the pew Bible (NRSV), page 1270 (CEB)

Large crowds were traveling with Jesus. Turning to them, he said, "Whoever comes to me and doesn't hate father and mother, spouse and children, and brothers and sisters—yes, even one's own life—cannot be my disciple. Whoever doesn't carry their own cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

"If one of you wanted to build a tower, wouldn't you first sit down and calculate the cost, to determine whether you have enough money to complete it? Otherwise, when you have laid the foundation but couldn't finish the tower, all who see it will begin to belittle you. They will say, 'Here's the person who began

construction and couldn't complete it!' Or what king would go to war against another king without first sitting down to consider whether his ten thousand soldiers could go up against the twenty thousand coming against him? And if he didn't think he could win, he would send a representative to discuss terms of peace while his enemy was still a long way off. In the same way, none of you who are unwilling to give up all of your possessions can be my disciple.

Children's Time

Sermon: "Kingdom Choices"

Hymn: "Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus"

We Respond to God's Word

THE APOSTLES' CREED

We believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. We 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 again to judge the living and the dead. We 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.

** The word "catholic" means "relating to the church universal"*

The Practice of Gratitude

In response to God's Word and remembering all things come from God, we offer with thanks a portion of that which God has entrusted to us. The ushers will collect God's tithes and our offerings. For those who have given in other forms, there are cards in the pew racks that you may use as a tangible action of gratitude to God. No matter what we return to God in material forms, may we spiritually place our hearts, and our very lives, in God's hands, to be re-shaped for ministry in Christ, furthering God's kingdom here on earth.

Offering Music: “Hard Fought Hallelujah”

***Offertory: GTG 607 “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”**

***Offertory Prayer**

Sacrament of Holy Communion

GTG 525 “Let Us Break Bread Together”

(Remain seated, we sing this song as the table is being prepared for communion)

INVITATION TO THE LORD’S TABLE

This is neither a Presbyterian table, nor even the church’s table. This is the Lord’s table. It is prepared for those who love the Lord and for those who desire to love him more. All who believe in Jesus Christ are welcome to share in this meal.

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

... Joining our voices with those from around the world, we pray as you taught us, saying...

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.

Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who have sinned 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.

Amen.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD – (words of institution]

SHARING OF THE MEAL

The Bread of Life

The Cup of Salvation

Music during communion “Let Us Break Bread Together”

PRAYER OF THANKS

God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

***Sending Song “I Will Follow”**

***Taking the Light of Christ into the World**

Postlude: “Trust and Obey”

Today's Guest Musician:

While the Personnel Team is searching for our next Music and Worship Director, we are blessed to have several musicians filling in. Please welcome each one of them as we experience a variety of music leadership styles God is providing through them.

Kristina Arellano was born and raised in Fond du Lac. She has a B.A. in Church Music from North Central University and an M.A. in Ethnomusicology, with an emphasis on global worship, from Bethel University. She owns a private teaching studio called Paige School of Music and is about to publish her own piano method called *The Dynamic Pianist*. Kristina has accompanied a variety of groups including churches, schools, weddings, choirs, and small ensembles.

Thank you to the following people for leading worship today:

Liturgist: Todd Hayes

Cantor: Carol W.

Pianist: Kristina A.

Drums: Noah B.

Guitar: Eddie H.

Organist: Henry H.

Children's Moment: Jennifer Z.

Audio/Video: Deb C. & John N.

Designer: Deb C.

Communion Servers:

Deacon Danielle P.

Deacon Elfrieda P.

Deacon Gerhard P.

Deacon Jolene S.

Deacon Evan S.

Elder Todd H.

Elder Mary J.

GETTING CONNECTED:

Office Phone 920.922.0425

Website

www.fdlpresbyterian.org

Breeze Subdomain: FDLFirstPresb

Facebook [First Presbyterian Church, Fond du Lac](https://www.facebook.com/FirstPresbyterianChurchFondDuLac)

YouTube [First Presbyterian Church, Fond du Lac](https://www.youtube.com/FirstPresbyterianChurchFondDuLac)

Deacon of the Month: Judy Dassow

Elder of the Month: Terry Rehn

STAFF:

Rev. Dr. Craig R. Alwin

pastor@fdlpresbyterian.org

Jennifer Zander

jzander@fdlpresbyterian.org

Mary Robotka

mrobotka@fdlpresbyterian.org

Tillie Statezny

fdloffice@fdlpresbyterian.org

Keep in Prayer

Arnold L	Jesse F	Mike A*(Kristina BIL)
Avril N* (Pretorius friend)	Joan S	Mike F
Bill K	Joyce J	Mike P
Bob & Ollive B	Kathy A*(Sister/SIL Kevin/Kim)	Paige T
Brian C	Liam A	Pass Family*
Brian M*	Lindsay J*(Bill/Mary Daughter)	Pat D
Chastity G	Lynn K*	Pat M*(Bonnie H Sister)
Corinne C	Lynn M	Paul W
Dick S	Marcie J*(Carol S friend)	Pete D
Elias B*(Laurie C Grandson)	Mark M*(Cheryl W BIL)	Qualine S*(Jodi A Mom)
Gib D	Mary C-A*	Sherry M
Jack K*(Jolene BIL)		Steven B(Kevin B Nephew)
James P		Susan & Arnie R*(John C Sister/BIL)

Financial Giving and Gratitude

WEEKLY STATISTICS FOR AUGUST 31, 2025

Individuals in Person: 67

Zoom Households: 4

<u>DATE</u>	<u>INCOME</u>	<u>NOTES</u>
8/31/25	\$ 636.00	Tithes/Offerings
	\$ 00.00	Special Offerings
8/25-29/25	\$ 800.00	Vanco Online "Tithes/Offerings"
	\$ 10.00	Vanco Special Offerings
	\$1446.00	TOTAL INCOME FOR THE WEEK

You can give online at www.fdlpresbyterian.org Giving page. (Click on 'Online Giving'.) You can also give by cash or check on Sunday morning, or by mail. We are so very thankful for your contributions that help us do God's work in our church and in our community.

This Week

Sunday

9:00-10:15am
10:15-11:15am
10:15-11:15am
11:30-12:30pm
11:30-1:00pm
6:00-7:30pm

September 7

Worship in the Sanctuary
Fellowship Time in Fellowship Hall
Growing Connections-Making Meaning-in Gathering Room
Learning Team Meeting
Worship Team Meeting-In the Parlor
Boy Scout Troop 702 Mtg

Monday

10:00-11:30am

September 8

Staff Meeting in the Office

Tuesday

1:00-5:30pm

September 9

Blood Drive

Wednesday

8:00-9:00am
4:00-6:00pm

September 10

Men's Breakfast at Pump & Pantry
Loaves and Fishes

Thursday

5:15-6:15pm
6:00-8:00pm

September 11

Bell Choir Rehearsal
GriefShare in the Parlor

Saturday

7:30-9:30pm

September 13

Outdoor Movie-*Finding Nemo*

Sunday

9:00-10:15am
10:15-11:15am
10:15-11:15am
11:00-1:00pm

September 14 Kick Off Sunday

Outdoor Worship
Fellowship Time in Fellowship Hall
Growing Connections-Foundations of Healthcare Power Attorney
PYA Outdoor Games and Lunch

Looking Ahead

Cribbage
Human Trafficking Awareness 101 Class

Friday, Sept. 19
Saturday, September 27