



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

3600 25th St, Columbus, IN 47203

Phone: (812) 372-1256 Web site: www.flccolumbus.org

Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Tuesday-Thursday

Facebook: First Lutheran Church (Columbus, IN)

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

August 3, 2025 - 11:15 a.m.

8TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

WELCOME TO THE LORD'S HOUSE!

We are so glad to have you with us this morning! There is an extended time of praise and worship at the beginning of the service, and we want you to worship your Lord as you feel comfortable. All forms of worship are acceptable, such as singing, clapping, standing, sitting, kneeling, and dancing. Please worship your God in a way that draws you closer to Him!

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRIEF ORDER OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

You may either stand or kneel.

P: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets 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.

C: Amen

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

P: Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are in bondage 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

P: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: AMEN.

OPENING PRAYER:

Benevolent God, you are the source, the guide, and the goal of our lives. Teach us to love what is worth loving, to reject what is offensive to you, and to treasure what is precious in your sight, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

FIRST READING: Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23

²Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity.

¹²I, the Teacher, was king over Israel in Jerusalem. ¹³I applied my mind to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven; it is an unhappy business that God has given to humans to be busy with. ¹⁴I saw all the deeds that are done under the sun, and see, all is vanity and a chasing after wind.

^{2:18}I hated all my toil in which I had toiled under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to my successor, ¹⁹and who knows whether he will be wise or foolish? Yet he will be master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity. ²⁰So I turned and gave

my heart up to despair concerning all the toil of my labors under the sun, ²¹ because sometimes one who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave all to be enjoyed by another who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. ²² What do mortals get from all the toil and strain with which they toil under the sun? ²³ For all their days are full of pain, and their work is a vexation; even at night their minds do not rest. This also is vanity.

WORSHIP & PRAISE

SECOND READING: Colossians 3:1-11

¹ So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth, ³ for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

⁵ Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). ⁶ On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. ⁷ These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. ⁸ But now you must get rid of all such things: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. ⁹ Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices ¹⁰ and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. ¹¹ In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, enslaved and free, but Christ is all and in all!

TIME OF OPEN PRAYER

OFFERING

BLESSING OF THE OFFERING

SHARING OF THE PEACE:

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always

C: And also with you

Please share the PEACE of the Lord with one another.



GOSPEL READING: Luke 12:13-21

¹³ Someone in the crowd said to [Jesus,] "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me." ¹⁴ But he said to him, "Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?" ¹⁵ And he said to them, "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions." ¹⁶ Then he told them a parable: "The land of a rich man produced abundantly. ¹⁷ And he thought to himself, 'What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?' ¹⁸ Then he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹ And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' ²⁰ But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' ²¹ So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God."

After the reading of the Gospel:

P. The Word of the Lord"

C. Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON: "The Root of All Evil?"

Pastor Amy Bartleson Balcam

WORSHIP & PRAISE

APOSTLES' CREED:

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again 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

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER:

C: Amen

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 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:

P: Come to God's table. There is a place for you and enough for all.

HOLY COMMUNION:

Please stand as you are able

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace.

C: Amen

POST COMMUNION PRAYER:

P. Let us pray. We give you thanks almighty God that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift – in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen

BACK-TO-SCHOOL PRAYER

P. Gracious God,

C. As a new school year begins, we lift up all students—those stepping into classrooms with excitement, and those who feel nervous or uncertain. You know the swirl of emotions they carry: joy and worry, curiosity and fear, hope and hesitation. Surround them with your peace. Bless their learning, their friendships, and their growth. Guide teachers, staff, and families, and help each child know they are loved, supported, and never alone.

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

BENEDICTION:

P: The Lord bless you, and keep you; the Lord make his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give the peace.

C: Amen.

SENDING WORSHIP & PRAISE**SERVING FIRST TODAY**

Pastor: Amy Bartleson Balcam

Greeters, Ushers, Communion Assistants, Candle-lighting:
John & Mary Ellen Wyman, Dave Stocks, Magen Pillar, Owen East,
Travis East, & Romel Christopher

WOUNDED HEALER PRAISE BAND

Erika East, Annette Hull, Jennifer & Mike Langevin, Matt Pillar

Today's altar flowers are given by Mark & Linda Pillar in honor of Linda Gobert's birthday.