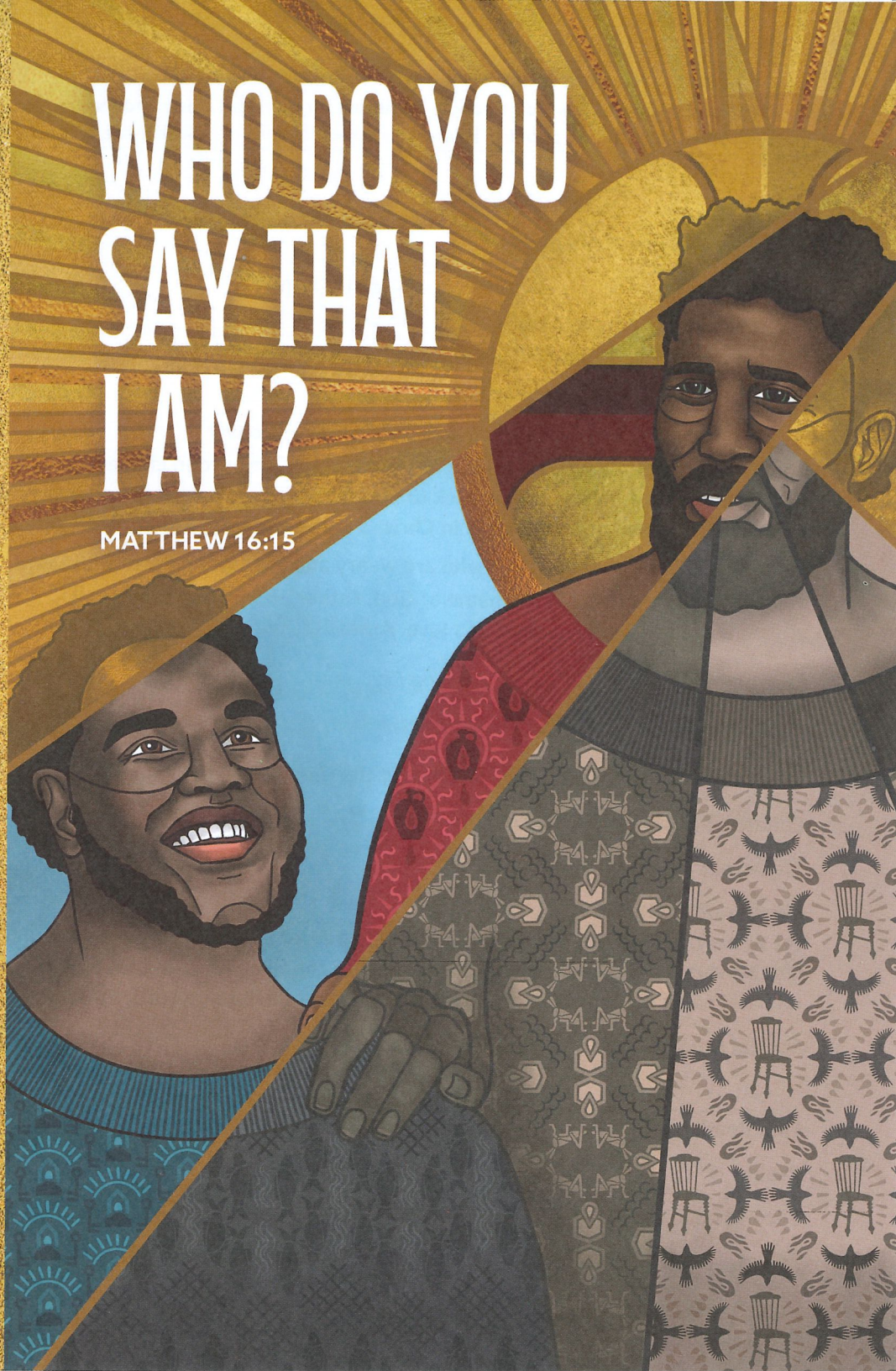


WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM?

MATTHEW 16:15



Time after Pentecost

August 23, 2026

Radio ministry is given in thankfulness to God from the members of First Lutheran Church.

Baptized today: Charlotte Elizabeth Bennett, daughter of Derek & Aliza (Mainard) Bennett, born on April 20, 2026, in Owatonna, MN. Her sponsors are Samuel & Alexandra Johnson and Matthew & Emmeline Hamersma.

Sunday 8/23	<i>Garden Sunday</i> 9:00am	Worship & on Radio & Video
Tuesday 8/25	4:00pm	AA Meeting (Fireside Rm)
Wednesday 8/26	1:15pm	Prairie Manor Worship
Sunday 8/30	9:00am	Worship & on Radio & Video

Acolytes: Cora Studer, Kashton Witt

Lector: Judy Bishop

Ushers: Randy Klemmensen, Dwain Schultz, Rich Schwartz, David Streng

Garden Sunday today from 8am-11am. Freewill offering w/proceeds going to Lutheran Scholarships.

Children's Offering for summer is a noisy offering.

Mark Your Calendars

Sept. 2 – Confirmation orientation for 8-10 grades

Sept. 13 – Rally Sunday (SS begins)

Sept. 20 – Scholarship Pancake Breakfast

Sept. 21 – Lutefisk tickets go on sale after 10am

Our mission as The Welcome Place grows deeper each day. Thank you for your prayers, participation, offerings and tithes to keep our ministry strong.

Sunday, August 16 – Offering \$4,856.50
Attendance – 260

Online Giving



Thank You

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Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

GATHERING

*Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, †one God, who compassion endures forever. Amen.

Let us confess our sin to God.

(Silence is kept for reflection.)

Compassionate God, we confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ’s name we pray, Amen.

Jesus says, “Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.” In the name of God, Father, †Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God’s love. Amen.

*Gathering Hymn *Borning Cry* **#732**

*Baptism of Charlotte Elizabeth Bennett **page 227**

*Baptismal Acclamation *Children of the Heavenly Father* **#781 vss 1-2**

Children’s Message

*Apostolic Greeting **page 138**

*Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. O God, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Special Music *Jesus, Lord to Me* Karla Iacovino

WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 51:1-6

Psalm: Psalm 138

Second Reading: Romans 12:1-8

*Gospel Acclamation *Alleluia, Lord to Whom Shall We Go?* **page 142**

P. The Gospel according to Matthew. C. Glory to you, O Lord.

*Gospel Reading: Matthew 16:13-20

P. The Gospel of the Lord. C. Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day *My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less* **#597**

RESPONDING

*Prayers of Intercession (Lord, in your mercy/Hear our prayer)

*Sharing of the Peace

*Offering

*Offertory *We Are an Offering* **#692**

*Offertory Prayer

*Lord’s Prayer **page 145**

SENDING

*Blessing

God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end, Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead, and the Spirit, our advocate and peace, †bless you now and forever. Amen.

*Sending Song *Crown Him with Many Crowns*** **#855**

*Dismissal Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news! Thanks be to God.

Postlude

***Members’ Favorite*

CCLI #853768 and #20174979
One License: #A-731987

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH	
434 First Street SW Blooming Prairie, Minnesota 507.583.6621	
firstlutheranbp.com facebook.com/firstlutheranbp	
Senior Pastor	Heidi Heimgartner
Associate Pastor	Laurel Meester
Director of Children’s Ministry	Tracy Madsen
Administrative Secretary	Danielle Hein
Organist	Karla Iacovino
Pianist/Choir Director	Chris Butler
Custodians	Gary Thorson, Wanda Edge



Today's Readings

Sunday, August 23, 2026
13th Sunday after Pentecost

Prayer of the Day

O God, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading

Isaiah 51:1-6

Listen to me, you who pursue
righteousness,
you who seek the LORD.
Look to the rock from which you were
hewn
and to the quarry from which you
were dug.
²Look to Abraham your father
and to Sarah, who bore you,
for he was but one when I called him,
but I blessed him and made him
many.
³For the LORD will comfort Zion;
he will comfort all her waste places
and will make her wilderness like Eden,
her desert like the garden of the
LORD;
joy and gladness will be found in her,
thanksgiving and the voice of song.

⁴Listen to me, my people,
and give heed to me, my nation,
for a teaching will go out from me
and my justice for a light to the
peoples.
⁵I will bring near my deliverance swiftly;
my salvation has gone out,
and my arms will rule the peoples;
the coastlands wait for me,
and for my arm they hope.
⁶Lift up your eyes to the heavens
and look at the earth beneath,
for the heavens will vanish like smoke,
the earth will wear out like a
garment,
and those who live on it will die like
gnats,
but my salvation will be forever,
and my deliverance will never be
ended.

Psalm

Psalm 138; tone 9



I will give thanks to you, O LORD,
with ¹my whole heart;
before the gods
I will ¹sing your praise.
²I will bow down toward your holy
temple and praise your name,
because of your steadfast ¹love
and faithfulness;
for you have glorified your name
and your word a- ¹bove all things.

³When I called, you ¹answered me;
you increased my ¹strength
within me.
⁴All the rulers of the earth
will praise ¹you, O LORD,
when they have heard the words
¹of your mouth.
⁵They will sing of the ways ¹of the LORD,
that great is the glory ¹of the LORD.

continued

Psalm, continued

⁶The LORD is high,
yet cares ¹for the lowly,
perceiving the haughty ¹from afar.
⁷Though I walk in the midst of trouble,
you ¹keep me safe;
you stretch forth your hand
against the fury of my enemies;
your right ¹hand shall save me.

⁸You will make good your pur- ¹pose
for me;
O LORD, your steadfast love
endures forever;
do not abandon
the works ¹of your hands.

Second Reading

Romans 12:1-8

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, on the basis of God's mercy, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship. ²Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.
³For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think but to think with sober judgment,

each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴For as in one body we have many members and not all the members have the same function, ⁵so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸the encourager, in encouragement; the giver, in sincerity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Gospel

Matthew 16:13-20

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴And they said, "Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has

not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." ²⁰Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

TODAY'S READINGS August 23, 2026 (Lectionary 21)

Volume 57, Number 4

Next Sunday's Readings: Jeremiah 15:15-21; Psalm 26:1-8; Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 16:21-28.
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