

Lord, how often should I forgive?

MATTHEW 18:21



Time after Pentecost

September 13, 2026

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

Baptized today: Ila Marlys Makana Gathje, daughter of Kainoa & Nikki (Schultz) Gathje, born on January 26, 2026, in Rochester, MN. Her sponsors are Lance Schultz and Ka'iulani Kallis.

Sunday 9/13	9:00am	Worship & on Radio & Video
Rally Sunday	10:00am	Sunday School Resumes
	10:00am	3yo Sunday School Orientation
	1:15pm	Prairie Manor Worship
Monday 9/14	5:00pm	Stewardship Meeting
Tuesday 9/15	4:00pm	AA Meeting (Fireside Rm)
	6:00pm	Deacon & Trustee Meetings
	7:00pm	Council Meeting
Wednesday 9/16	8:00am	Bible Study
	9:30am	Women's Bible Circle
	6:30pm	8-10 Grade Confirmation
	7:00pm	Senior Choir Practice
Sunday 9/20	8am-11:30am	Scholarship Committee Pancake Breakfast
	9:00am	Worship w/Holy Communion & on Radio & Video
	10:00am	Sunday School
	12:30pm - 3pm	4-H Meeting
Monday 9/21	Lutefisk tickets go on sale after 10am	

Acolytes: Brooklyn Peterson, Maci Basness

Lector: Pam Ingvalson

Ushers: Jay Johns, Bill Rinkenberger, Roger Sorenson, David Streng

Children's Offering for September is a noisy offering for BP Youth Club Amazon wish list.

Maddox Crook would like to thank the FLCW: Thank you for sponsoring a GREAT week at GEV Bible Camp. Gram and Pa Witzel enjoyed the Art show, lunch, and closing program also.

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, September 6 – Offering \$7,026.77
Attendance – 106



Cover: *Unforgiving Debtor* by Jorge Cocco Santángelo. Copyright © Jorge Cocco Santángelo. All rights reserved. Used by permission of the artist.

Scripture quotations from the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition. Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide. Revised Common Lectionary copyright © 1992 by the Consultation on Common Texts (CCT), admin. Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Please visit our website at www.augsburgfortress.org.
Copyright © 2026 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. May not be reproduced. Printed in U.S.A.

20260913-LEC24 ITEM014773 ELCA-K

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

GATHERING

***Confession and 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. 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.**

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

***Baptism of Ila Marlys Makana Gathje** **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 Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Special Music *All Good Gifts* Senior Choir

WORD

First Reading: Genesis 50:15-21

Psalm: Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13

Second Reading: Romans 14:1-12

***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 18:21-35

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

Sermon

Hymn of the Day *Our Father, We Have Wondered* **#606**

RESPONDING

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

***Sharing of the Peace**

***Offering**

***Offertory** *We Plow the Fields and Scatter* **#681 vs 3 only**

***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** *Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven* **#864**

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

Postlude

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	
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, September 13, 2026

16th Sunday after Pentecost

Prayer of the Day

O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading

Genesis 50:15-21

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?"¹⁶So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke

to him.¹⁸Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God?"²⁰Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

Psalm

Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13; tone 6



[Bless the LORD, ¹O my soul,
and all that is within me,
bless God's ¹holy name.
²Bless the LORD, ¹O my soul,
and forget not ¹all God's benefits—
³who forgives ¹all your sins
and heals all ¹your diseases;
⁴who redeems your life ¹from the grave
and crowns you
with steadfast ¹love and mercy;
⁵who satisfies your desires
¹with good things
so that your youth is renewed
¹like an eagle's.
⁶O LORD, you provide ¹vindication
and justice for all who ¹are oppressed.
⁷You made known your ¹ways to Moses
and your works
to the chil- ¹dren of Israel.]

⁸LORD, you are full of compas- ¹sion
and mercy,
slow to anger
and abounding in ¹steadfast love;
⁹you will not al- ¹ways accuse us,
nor will you keep your an- ¹ger forever.
¹⁰You have not dealt with us
according ¹to our sins,
nor repaid us
according to ¹our iniquities.
¹¹For as the heavens are high
a- ¹bove the earth,
so great is your steadfast love
for ¹those who fear you.
¹²As far as the east is ¹from the west,
so far have you removed
our transgres- ¹sions from us.
¹³As a father has compassion ¹for his children,
so you have compassion
for those who fear ¹you, O LORD.

Second Reading

Romans 14:1-12

Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat, for God has welcomed them. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on slaves of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶Those who observe the day, observe it for the Lord. Also those who eat, eat for the Lord, since they give thanks to God, while those who abstain, abstain for the

Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹For it is written,

"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God."

¹²So then, each one of us will be held accountable.

Gospel

Matthew 18:21-35

Peter came and said to [Jesus,] "Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?"²²Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, ²⁵and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.'²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who

owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

TODAY'S READINGS September 13, 2026 (Lectionary 24)

Volume 57, Number 4

Next Sunday's Readings: Jonah 3:10—4:11; Psalm 145:1-8; Philippians 1:21-30; Matthew 20:1-16.

TODAY'S READINGS (ISSN 1069-0166, USPS 009628) is published quarterly by Augsburg Fortress, 411 Washington Avenue North, Third Floor, Minneapolis, MN, 55401. Periodicals postage paid in St. Paul, MN and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send address changes to Today's Readings, Augsburg Fortress Publishers, P.O. Box 1553, Minneapolis, MN 55440-1553. Printed in U.S.A. Price per weekly part \$4.79 per 100 copies; price in Canada subject to exchange rates. Minimum order 50 copies of each issue; all orders must be in multiples of 50. Copyright © 2023 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. May not be reproduced. Revised Common Lectionary © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts. Readings from the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition. Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide. Prayer of the day and psalm from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* © 2006, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Psalm tone accompaniment is in *Psalter for Worship, Year A* (Augsburg Fortress, 2007). Please visit our website at augsburgfortress.org. Lectionary year A.

ITEM015049 Tracks 1 and 2