

Preparation for Worship:

O Lord, may my heart not be hardened, my ears not deaf, my mind not wandering as I strive to worship you in spirit and in truth. Amen.

Please stand as you are able **Bold Items read in unison*

GATHERING We come together to worship God

Welcome and Announcements

Invocation/Call to Worship: I **lift up my eyes to the mountains — where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.** (Psalm 121:1-2)

Opening Prayer

* Opening Hymn – *Give to Our God Immortal Praise* Red **#205**

Communion Exhortation

Confession of Sin: **Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess to You that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed. Therefore, we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy and ask You for Christ's sake, grant us forgiveness of all our sins, and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to eternal life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

Response: (sung, #522, v.1) **Marvelous grace of our loving Lord, Grace that exceeds our sin and our guilt! Yonder on Calvary's mount outpoured— There where the blood of the Lamb was spilt. Grace, grace, God's grace, Grace that will pardon and cleanse within; Grace, grace, God's grace, Grace that is greater than all our sin!**

Prayers of the Church (P: Lord in Your mercy C: **Hear our prayer.**)

WORD We seek guidance from God's Word

Ezekiel 33:7-9	Old Testament
Psalms 32:1-7	Responsive Reading
Romans 13:1-10	Epistle

* Confession of Faith (Apostles' Creed): **I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit; born of the virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, dead and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven and is seated on the right hand of God the Father Almighty, from where He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; the Holy Christian Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

* Gloria Patri: (sung, p. 4) **Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.**

* Offertory (sung, p. 33 for melody) **Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence: and take not Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Your salvation: and uphold me with Your free Spirit.**

Children's Sermon

Hymn – *I am Jesus' Little Lamb* Red **#371**

* Matthew 18:1-14 * Gospel

Sermon – *A Disciple Values Children* Pastor Barry Nelson

MEAL The Table of Our Lord

Hymn – *Lord Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray* Red **#286**

* 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.**

Holy Communion

SENDING We go out to live in & share God's Word

* Closing Hymn – *Children of the Heavenly Father* Red **#560**

* Benediction & Doxology: (sung, p. 24 for melody) **Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; Praise Him, all crea-tures here be-low; Praise Him a-bove, ye heaven-ly host: Praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost. A-men.**

* Dismissal L: Go in Peace, and Serve the Lord. C: **Thanks be to God.**



Next Sunday, September 13 – There will not be services at Hope. Instead, you're invited to attend the Harvest Festival Worship Service at Twin Rivers Old Iron. Worship starts at 9:30am.

Fundraiser for Operation Christmas Child: The Hope Lutheran Sunday school will be having a produce/bake sale at the Twin Rivers Old Iron Harvest Festival on Saturday, September 12. If you would like to make a donation of baked goods or garden produce, please bring your items to the Old Iron Festival by 9:00am.

First American WMF Fundraiser: Throughout the month of September, the FA WMF will be having their annual fundraising offering. Donations help support WMF projects, such as purchasing "Portals of Prayer" devotionals. The WMF also supports other mission organizations through their Christmas benevolence giving.

This Week in the Parish - September 6 - 13

TUESDAY 7:30 pm Hope WMF
WEDNESDAY 7:30 pm First American Council
SUNDAY 9:00 am Worship at First American
No Worship or Sunday School at Hope
9:30 am Worship at Twin Rivers Old Iron grounds

Rejoicing in your presence & gifts – August 30, 2026

First Am: General—\$2066. Benevolence—\$160. Budget per Sun—\$2068.

Welcome! On this marvelous Sunday, let us open our spirits to the loving presence of God that we may be spiritually fed and renewed by his grace. Please be sure to introduce yourself and sign our guest register as you leave.

Prayer in our corporate worship service is very important. To maintain a current prayer list, requests for non-members will be in the bulletin for three weeks. For additional time, please send an update to Pastor Barry. New additions will be underlined, and those scheduled to come off will be in italics.

Health Needs of our Members: Maurice Bueber. Allan Hale. Dawsyn Johnston. Robert Kurtz. Sue Neumeister. Glendora Zeitner.

Health Needs: Leo Mach (Tripp community). Jared Minikus (son of Michelle Kurtz's cousin). Marlin Nuss (father of Jodi Fuerst). Nicole Rude (niece of Tammy Ziegler).

Sympathy: Prayers of comfort for the family & friends of Sally Schatz (Tripp community).

Birthdays: 11 Lauren Hanson. 12 Carrie Reiner.

Anniversaries: 8 Bryan & Shawn Bietz. 10 Collin & Jackie Ziegler.

AFLC Churches: St. Matthew Lutheran, Millerstown, PA; Minnewaska Lutheran, Starbuck, MN; Redeemer Free Lutheran, Canton, SD.

Mission: Pastor Randy Nelson, AFLC - Evangelism Director

Honoring Work and Rest

Labor Day gives us an opportunity to honor the work of our hands and the many ways people serve their families, churches and communities. As we pause from our usual routines, may we give thanks for meaningful work, remember those seeking employment and receive God's gift of renewing rest.

The **All Nations Family Worship Center** (Johnny & Heidi Wade) is asking for donations of washed, empty plastic containers with lids, such as cool whip bowls, cottage cheese, sour cream, etc. that can be used to transport leftovers for their weekly meals. There is a collection bin in the narthex at First American.

Tripp-Delmont Parish + Association of Free Lutheran Churches

Pastor Barry Nelson

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Today's Readings

September 6, 2026

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Old Testament

Ezekiel 33:7-9

⁷“Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the people of Israel; so hear the word I speak and give them warning from me. ⁸When I say to the wicked, ‘You wicked person, you will surely die,’ and you do not speak out to dissuade them from their ways, that wicked person will die for their sin, and I will hold you accountable for their blood. ⁹But if you do warn the wicked person to turn from their ways and they do not do so, they will die for their sin, though you yourself will be saved.

Psalms 32:1-7

¹ Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven,
whose sins are covered.

² **Blessed is the one whose sin the LORD does not count against them and in whose spirit is no deceit.**

³ When I kept silent, my bones wasted away
through my groaning all day long.

⁴ **For day and night your hand was heavy on me;
my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer.**

⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity.
I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD.” And you
forgave the guilt of my sin.

⁶ **Therefore let all the faithful pray to you while you may be found;
surely the rising of the mighty waters will not reach them.**

⁷ You are my hiding place; you will protect me from trouble
and surround me with songs of deliverance.

Epistle

Romans 13:1-10

Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. ²Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. ³For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and you will be commended. ⁴For the one in authority is God’s servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God’s servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. ⁵Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also as a matter of conscience.

⁶ This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God’s servants, who give their full time to governing. ⁷ Give to everyone what you owe them: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor. ⁸ Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law. ⁹ The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery,” “You shall not murder,” “You shall not steal,” “You shall not covet,” and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰ Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord. C: Thanks be to God.

Sermon Text: Gospel

Matthew 18:1-14

At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, “Who, then, is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” ² He called a little child to him, and placed the child among them. ³ And he said: “Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. ⁵ And whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me. ⁶ “If anyone causes one of these little ones—those who believe in me—to stumble, it would be better for them to have a large millstone hung around their neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea. ⁷ Woe to the world because of the things that cause people to stumble! Such things must come, but woe to the person through whom they come! ⁸ If your hand or your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life maimed or crippled than to have two hands or two feet and be thrown into eternal fire. ⁹ And if your eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into the fire of hell. ¹⁰ “See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven. ¹¹ ¹² “What do you think? If a man owns a hundred sheep, and one of them wanders away, will he not leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go to look for the one that wandered off? ¹³ And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he is happier about that one sheep than about the ninety-nine that did not wander off. ¹⁴ In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should perish.

Lessons – September 13, 2026 OT – Genesis 50:15-21 Psalm 103:1-6
Epistle – Romans 14:1-9 Gospel – Matthew 18:21-35

The **First American WMF** has 2 baskets in the narthex to fill with donated items for a silent auction fundraiser at the District Women's Rally on September 26. Our funds will be split for some mission projects. Any help will be appreciated! If any questions, please call Jan Jerke, 605-770-3002.



Sunday School Teachers needed: If you're interested in volunteering at First American as a Sunday school teacher, assistant or substitute, please contact Kristie Bueber.

Prayer of Remembrance for Patriots Day

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, our shelter through every storm, and our eternal home:

We come before You remembering the lives lost on September 11, 2001. Though many years have passed, the sorrow of that day still lingers in the hearts of families, friends and a grieving nation.

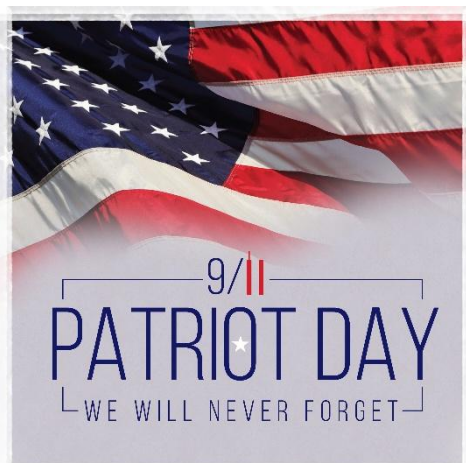
Lord, comfort those who continue to carry loss. Grant peace to the brokenhearted, strength to the weary and light to those walking through seasons of grief. Let Your presence bring hope where memories still ache.

Teach us to care for one another with compassion and courage. Help us to be a people who offer kindness to the hurting, encouragement to the discouraged and justice to those who suffer. Stir our hearts to live with mercy, humility and love for our neighbors.

Forgive us when our words are greater than our actions. May we strive each day to reflect the values of faith, unity and grace that honor You and strengthen our communities.

Thank You, Lord, for Your constant care and unfailing mercy. Even in tragedy, You remain our refuge and our hope.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.



Matthew 18:1-14

"(A Disciple) Values Children"

September 6, 2026

1. Lives as a Child of God

2. Guards the Faith of Children

3. Recognizes God's Protection of Children