

Preparation for Worship:

With eagerness we approach you, O God. We join with all who love and serve you. We offer ourselves to be your people, ready to let your light shine upon us and through us. In Jesus' name. 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 – *Crown Him with Many Crowns* Red **#172**

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!**

Declaration of Grace

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

WORD We seek guidance from God's Word

Genesis 50:15-21 Old Testament

Psalms 103 Responsive Reading

Romans 14:1-9 Epistle Lesson

* 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 – *Redeemed, Restored, Forgiven* Red **#402**

* Sermon Text: Gospel – Matthew 18:21-35

Sermon – A Disciple Forgives from the Heart Pastor Barry

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

* Closing Hymn – *All Creatures of Our God and King* Red **#183**

* 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.**

* Benediction & Doxology: (sung, p. 24 for melody) **Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

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

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.

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.

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.

This Week in the Parish - September 13 - 20

TUESDAY 7:30 pm Hope WMF
WEDNESDAY 7:30 pm First American WMF – Lesson 9
First American Council
SATURDAY 8:30 am Men's Fellowship Breakfast
SUNDAY 9:00 am Worship at First American with Noisy Offering for
Maurice Bueber for medical expenses
9:30 am Hope Sunday School
10:00 am First American Sunday School Begins!
10:45 am Hope Worship
MON 21st Newsletter Deadline!

Rejoicing in your presence & gifts – September 6, 2026

First Am: General—\$1560. Benevolence—\$11. AFLC Bible College—\$25.
Noisy Offering for Ramsey Horstman—\$50. Budget per Sun—\$2068.

Welcome! It is a genuine joy to welcome all who have come to praise our Lord. Let us begin this service as we should begin every day: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. 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: Karen Johnson (sister of Lila Fechner). *Jared Minikus* (son of Michelle Kurtz's cousin). Nicole Rude (niece of Tammy Ziegler).

Sympathy: Prayers of comfort for the family & friends of Leo Mach (Tripp community), Marlin Nuss (father of Jodi Fuerst, grandfather of LaNae Fuerst, Macey Schempp and Jackie Ziegler), *Sally Schatz* (Tripp community), Barb Kissner-Swoboda (friend of Kyrie Nelson's family).

Birthdays: 14 Judy Schelske. 16 Isaac Bietz, Samantha Droppers. 19 Becca Herman.

Anniversaries: 17 Matthew & Macey Schempp. 19 Joel & Pam Vetter, Wes & Cara Will.

AFLC Churches: Alsace Lutheran, Reading, PA; Hegland Free Lutheran, Strandquist, MN; Immanuel Free Lutheran, Centerville, SD.

Mission: Rev. Andy Coyle, AFLC - Home Missions Director

Our members in Care Center: Avera Bormann Manor in Parkston: Elmer Bietz
Avera Bormann Assisted Living in Parkston: Carol Bietz
Avera Weskota Manor in Wessington Springs: Lorene Jerke
Good Samaritan Society-Scotland: Delaine Geuther.
Menno-Olivet Care Center: Norma Mogck

Tripp-Delmont Parish + Association of Free Lutheran Churches Pastor Barry Nelson

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Today's Readings

September 13, 2026

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Old Testament

Genesis 50:15-21

¹⁵ When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "What if Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back for all the wrongs we did to him?" ¹⁶ So they sent word to Joseph, saying, "Your father left these instructions before he died: ¹⁷ 'This is what you are to say to Joseph: I ask you to forgive your brothers the sins and the wrongs they committed in treating you so badly.' Now please forgive the sins of the servants of the God of your father." When their message came to him, Joseph wept. ¹⁸ His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him. "We are your slaves," they said. ¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? ²⁰ You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. ²¹ So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children." And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.

Psalms 103

- ¹ Praise the LORD, my soul;
all my inmost being, praise his holy name.
- ² **Praise the LORD, my soul,
and forget not all his benefits—**
- ³ who forgives all your sins
and heals all your diseases,
- ⁴ **who redeems your life from the pit
and crowns you with love and compassion,**
- ⁵ who satisfies your desires with good things
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.
- ⁶ **The LORD works righteousness
and justice for all the oppressed.**

Sermon Text: Epistle

Romans 14:1-9

Accept the one whose faith is weak, without quarreling over disputable matters. ² One person's faith allows them to eat anything, but another, whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables. ³ The one who eats everything must not treat with contempt the one who does not, and the one who does not eat everything must not judge the one who does, for God has accepted them. ⁴ Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To their own master, servants stand or fall. And they will stand, for the Lord is able to make them stand. ⁵ One person considers one day more sacred than another; another considers every day alike. Each of them should be fully

convinced in their own mind. ⁶ Whoever regards one day as special does so to the Lord. Whoever eats meat does so to the Lord, for they give thanks to God; and whoever abstains does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God. ⁷ For none of us lives for ourselves alone, and none of us dies for ourselves alone. ⁸ If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. ⁹ For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living.

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

Gospel

Matthew 18:21-35

²¹ Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?" ²² Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times. ²³ "Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴ As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. ²⁵ Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt. ²⁶ "At this the servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.' ²⁷ The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go. ²⁸ "But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded. ²⁹ "His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.' ³⁰ "But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. ³¹ When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened. ³² "Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. ³³ Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' ³⁴ In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. ³⁵ "This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

Lessons – September 20, 2026 Old Testament – Isaiah 55:6-9 Psalm 27:1-9
Epistle – Philippians 1:12-14, 19-30 Gospel – Matthew 20:1-16

Thank God for Teachers

It is sometimes said that public school teachers do not teach values. Yet every day, countless teachers quietly model compassion, patience, integrity and kindness through the way they care for their students.

Many teachers go far beyond lesson plans and classrooms. They spend their own money on school supplies, workbooks, clothing, snacks and special needs for children who may otherwise go without. They encourage struggling students, celebrate small victories and offer steady support to children facing difficult circumstances at home.

Teachers also work with students from many different backgrounds and abilities. Some patiently help children learn English, while others devote extra time and care to students with learning, emotional or social challenges. In a world where many children face poverty, abuse, loneliness, neglect or uncertainty, a caring teacher can become a source of hope, stability and encouragement.

Many educators also serve faithfully in churches and communities, living out their faith through daily acts of love and service. Their influence often reaches far beyond what grades or test scores can measure.

As a church family, let us remember to pray for teachers, encourage them in their calling and thank God for the important difference they make in the lives of children every day.

Ladies! You are invited to the **South Dakota District WMF Fall Rally** on September 26, 2026, at First American. Please RSVP by Sept. 16 by contacting Barb or Jan. Hope to see you there for a fun day of fellowship!

9:00am Registration

9:30am Rally Welcome

Speaker: Kyle Gorman, AFLC Journey Missions

Lunch is provided.

There will also be a silent auction for baskets that are put together by other district church WMF groups.

The 2026 Fall Rally is hosted by First American Lutheran, Tripp & Hope Lutheran, Delmont.



Matthew 18:21-35

“(A Disciple) Forgives from the Heart” September 13, 2026

1. Peter’s Question

2. Jesus’ Lesson

3. Our Response

