Strength, Soul, and Spark: Celebrating the Gifts of Women
Thankoffering Service - November 15, 2026

WELCOME

PRELUDE ***Kremser*** POWELL

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM
We gather in the name of our creator, redeemer +, and sustainer.
Amen.

Joined to Christ and named as God's beloved, we give thanks for the gift of baptism that roots us in life, renews us in strength, and frees us to be bold.

We give you thanks, O God,
For at the beginning of time, your creative spirit moved over the waters, your Word brought new life, and you called it good.

We give you thanks, O God, for waters that sustain and heal.
You revealed a spring of water to Hagar, saving her and her son Ishmael.
You brought your people out of the waters of the Exodus, leading Miriam to shout out in song.
You held Moses in the River Nile, where Pharaoh's daughter would find him and care for him as her own.
You kept the party going when, at Mary's request, Jesus turned water into wine at a wedding.
You led a Samaritan woman to a well, where she would be met by Jesus' grace and given living water that lasts.

Even today, you shower us with life, and we praise you. With your living water, sustain our souls, show us empathy and welcome, give us strength, and lead us by your divine spark to lives of compassion and mercy.
Amen.

HYMN #835 ***All Creatures Worship God Most High*** LASST UNS ERFREUEN

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE *ACS Setting 12*



PRAYER

Let us pray together. God of Glory, **we are gathered today in your presence to celebrate and give thanks for all of the gifts and talents given to women. While we recognize the abundance we have, we also recognize the struggles of women in our own country and around the world. Sometimes these struggles are voiced or are internal conflicts that only You know about. Lord, bring peace and joy to our hearts today. Allow us to fully absorb the presence of you and of the community of strong women surrounding us. Amen.**

READINGS

Naomi and Ruth (soul). Ruth 1:7-16

Ruth is a story of deep faithfulness, empathy, and compassion amid adversity. The story's soul demonstrates the power of love to triumph over hopelessness and to bridge great differences. For women like Ruth and Noami, whose empathy heals generational wounds, we give thanks.

7 So Naomi set out from the place where she had been living, she and her two
daughters-in- law, and they went on their way to go back to the land of
Judah. 8 But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back each of you to
your mother's house. May the LORD deal kindly with you, as you have dealt
with the dead and with me. 9 The LORD grant that you may find security, each
of you in the house of your husband." Then she kissed them, and they wept
aloud. 10 They said to her, "No, we will return with you to your people." 11 But
Naomi said, "Turn back, my daughters, why will you go with me?...No, my
daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you, because the hand
of the LORD has turned against me." 14 Then they wept aloud again. Orpah
kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her.

15 So Naomi said, "See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to
her gods; return after your sister-in-law." 16 But Ruth said,

"Do not press me to leave you
or to turn back from following you!
Where you go, I will go;
where you lodge, I will lodge,
your people shall be my people,
and your God my God.

After the reading is shared:

Holy Wisdom, Living Word.
Thanks be to God.

God's compassionate creativity (spark) Psalm 139:1-14

The spark of the divine dwells within each of us. For the cosmic creativity of God, whose presence accompanies and inspires all, we give thanks.

O LORD, you have searched me and known me.
2 You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from far away.
3 You search out my path and my lying down
and are acquainted with all my ways.
4 Even before a word is on my tongue,
O LORD, you know it completely.
5 You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.
6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain it.

7 Where can I go from your spirit?
Or where can I flee from your presence?
8 If I ascend to heaven, you are there;
if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.
9 If I take the wings of the morning
and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,
10 even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me fast.
11 If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,
and night wraps itself around me,"[a]
12 even the darkness is not dark to you;
the night is as bright as the day,
for darkness is as light to you.

13 For it was you who formed my inward parts;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
14 I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are your works;
that I know very well.

Lydia and her family are baptized. Acts 16:9-15

9 During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." 10 When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them.
11 We therefore set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, 12 and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. 13 On the Sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer, and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. 14 A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. 15 When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home." And she prevailed upon us.

The women who bled for twelve years (strength). Matthew 9:18-25

Through a bold woman, Jesus demonstrates God's mercy and power by accepting the unacceptable and curing the incurable. Even the dead receive new life. For unnamed women who fight to be seen and heard, we give thanks.

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the ninth chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

18 While [Jesus] was saying these things to them, suddenly a leader came in and knelt before him, saying, "My daughter has just died, but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live." 19 And Jesus got up and followed him, with his disciples. 20 Then suddenly a woman who had been suffering from a flow of blood for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his cloak, 21 for she was saying to herself, "If I only touch his cloak, I will be made well." 22 Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, "Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well." And the

woman was made well from that moment. [23] When Jesus came to the leader's house and saw the flute players and the crowd making a commotion, [24] he said, "Go away, for the girl is not dead but sleeping." And they laughed at him. [25] But when the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl got up.

After the Gospel is shared:
The Gospel, the Good News made real for you.
Praise to you, O Christ!

MESSAGE

HYMN #733 ***Great is Thy Faithfulness*** FAITHFULNESS

APOSTLES' CREED
I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

In solidarity with your people from every nation and knit together with all of creation, we boldly pray for the church, our world, and all those in need.

Inspire your church, like Ruth and Naomi, to extend arms of compassion and empathy in times of challenge. Equip communities to be welcoming, to show mercy, and to lean into relationships so that all people may know your care. God our soul,
Hear our prayer.

Guide leaders to reflect the spark of your divine wisdom. Open eyes to see the goodness of your created world and encourage the tender care of those cast aside. Reveal yourself in unexpected places and in the leadership of those called to help. God our Spark,
Hear our prayer.

Bring healing, like the woman who bled for twelve years, to all who are suffering. Give strength to the weary, uplift the lowly, and amplify the voices of those quieted. We remember those women of the congregation that joined the church triumphant this past year: Mary Ann Chubb, Pat Stacy, Teresa Rasmussen, Joan Swisher. Breathe new life into forgotten places, end wars, rejuvenate lands, and uplift spirits. God our Strength,
Hear our prayer.

Trusting in your love for us, we offer these prayers and whatever else weighs heavy upon us to you, in the name of Jesus**. Amen.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

PEACE

OFFERING **(**8:15) ***St. Catherine's Court*** WEBER
(10:45)*Choir Anthem* **Lord, We Plant the Seed** DENGLER

OFFERING PRAYER

God of Abundance,

You create goodness in everything we offer. Use these gifts to bless the world. Strengthen ministries, empower leaders, and inspire generosity so that all may know your love. Reveal this love to us once again as we gather at your table that we might embody your compassionate care in all we do. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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
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.

LAMB OF GOD ACS 967 *This is Christ's Body* BROKEN AND BLESSED



DISTRIBUTION

POST COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

Generous God,
We give thanks!
You've gathered us together across generations and created a place at the table for each of us.
We give thanks!

Strengthen us with this meal of your love poured out, fill us with compassion, and nourish us until we meet again.
We give thanks!
In the name of Jesus Christ,
Amen.

BLESSING
Receive the blessing of God who breathes creativity into every soul and lights up every vision with purpose.
Bless the women of the world with the strength that they need, with empathy that brings us together, and with gratitude that moves us all forward.
May your love be our guide, and your justice our song that we sing and live out each day.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN #859 ***Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*** LOBE DEN HERREN

SENDING
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!
All: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE ***Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart*** MESSITER

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First Lutheran



Sunday Worship 9:30

All Creatures Worship God Most High

Welcome to First Lutheran Church. During our services of Holy Communion, we follow Jesus' teachings that all people are welcome to his table. This meal of faith, hope, and love is meant for all people for the forgiveness of sins. Feel free to come forward and receive the bread, or wheat-free and gluten-free wafer, along with a small cup of wine or grape juice. If you wish to receive a blessing instead of communion, simply cross your arms over your chest as a sign of your preference

WE ASK EVERYONE to complete the "Footprints" and list if you are communing or have a prayer request. You may write your prayer request(s) on the back. Please check YES for the name to be included in the bulletin or NO if you want the name to be known only to the prayer teams. We strive for confidentiality, so be sure you have the person's permission, or use only the first name. There are activity bags for our young worshippers. Please ask an usher for assistance.

THE ALTAR FLOWERS THIS MORNING are given to the glory of God by Tad & Maria Schell, in honor of their niece Estela's 14th birthday on November 17th!

THE CONGREGATIONAL MEETING is **TODAY** November 15th, after the service.

COUNCIL CANDIDATES A big thank you to all who have chosen to run for council this year: Crystal Clark, Marilynn Dunn, Kurt Ebersole, Miriam Gibson, Suzanne Kirk, and Kris Napier. Take a look at the bulletin board to see their questionnaires about what they would like to bring to the council! They will be elected at the congregational meeting today!

CARPET CLEANING The carpet in the lounge, communication room and the nursery will be cleaned on Tuesday, November 17. These rooms will not be available during the period of November 17 through November 21, to ensure the carpet is completely dry prior to putting all the furniture back. Thank you for your understanding, Property Committee.

IN THE HALLWAY are two tables—on one is the Samaritans Purse boxes that can be picked up and filled with suggested items (listed on the box). Our goal is to send out 25! The second is a recognition of what we're thankful for! God has given us as individuals and as a congregation so much and this is a time to remember. Please write on a colored leaf what you're thankful for, place it in the basket, and it will be put on the board. We are thankful for YOU!

THE NEW 2027 FLOWER CHART is up in the hallway, across from the church office. There is a full year of Sundays that need flowers to brighten not only the altar, but also either your home or the home of a shut-in. Please consider this ministry as a way to share God's love for His people.

MILITARY MINISTRY Social Ministry is trying to keep the Military Ministry active and going. This would involve contacting families of our military and getting updated photos and addresses. Please pray about trying to help with this project and contact the office or Social Ministry committee if you are willing to assist with this very valuable ministry. Thank you.

OPEN POSITION: The position of Building Manager is available. Duties include opening and closing the church building, and the keep up and maintenance of the building. If interested, please contact Pastor Tucker or Casey Cox.

THE THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE will be held jointly with St. John's, Trinity Arcadia, and Trinity Findlay at Trinity Lutheran Church here in Findlay, November 25th at 7pm with a combined choir and handbell choir.

SEVERE STORMS, HURRICANES, AND NATURAL DISASTERS across the United States have left many without power and/or without homes. With your support our church stands ready to walk with our neighbors as they rebuild. Your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response ensure that survivors don't have to face the road to recovery alone. Through these disasters and others across the United States and around the world, Lutheran Disaster Response accompanies communities for as long as the recovery process takes. Together we follow Christ's call to share hope and healing with our neighbors in need. There are Lutheran Disaster Response envelopes in the narthex or you may mark your gift Lutheran Disaster Response.

A CARD WRITING MINISTRY has been set up on a table outside the Narthex! The Social Ministry Committee encourages everyone to write a note to an At-Home member, to a member having a birthday, or just to someone you haven't seen in a while! Addresses for At-Home members and a list of monthly birthdays is available on the table. If you put the card in the basket available, the mailing will be handled by the office!