



First United Methodist Church
Sunday, May 18, 2025
Graduate Recognition Sunday



Please be aware that our services are livestreamed, and any adults and/or children participating in musical groups, children's messages and liturgist roles will appear on camera.

A nursery for children age 5 and under is on the lower level, and will include a Bible lesson. Sunday School for children K-5th grade will be held in the upper level Children's Lounge following the Children's Message. Please pick up your kids in the Lounge after worship. Today is the last day of Sunday School until fall.

Prelude **hymn improvisation**

Justin Rubin, organ

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Jeanine Alexander

Call to Worship

Sara Hill

One: We come to worship, filled with joy as we worship the God of glory, the Lord of love!

All: **All God's works surround us! Earth and heaven, stars and angels, all creation sings joyful praise!**

One: God gives and forgives, offering continual blessing. God is the well-spring of the joy of living!

All: **We join our voices singing praise to God. Joyfully we worship in love and praise!**

* **Hymn** *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

UM Hymnal #89

Children's Message/Recognition of Graduates

Pastor Jeanine Alexander

Children may leave for the nursery and Sunday School following the Children's Message and Graduate Recognition.

Baptism of Matilda Lin Bard-Henke

Bishop David Bard and Pastor Jeanine Alexander

Congregational response: With God's help, we will so order our lives after the example of Christ that Matilda, surrounded by steadfast love, may be established in faith and confirmed and strengthened in the way that leads to life eternal.

Baptism Song *O Matilda!*

Peter Henke

Anthem *Crowded Table*

Hemby, McKenna, and Carlile; arr. Andrea Ramsey
Sanctuary Choir; Derek Bromme, director
Jenna Mattson, fiddle

Jesus' Prayer – Celtic version by John Philip Newell

Holy One beyond all names, Eternal Wellspring, may love rise again in us today with food for every table, shelter for every family, and reverence for every life. Forgive us our failings in love and free us from all falseness, that the light of our souls may shine and the strength of our spirits endure for Earth and all its people, this day, tonight, and forever. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Sara Hill

I Corinthians 1:1-9, 16:13-14

Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes, to the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be his holy people, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ – their Lord and ours: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. For in him you have been enriched in every way – with all kinds of speech and with all knowledge – God thus confirming our testimony about Christ among you. Therefore, you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. He will also keep you firm to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. ... Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong. Do everything in love.

Anthem *Hymn of Promise*

Natalie Sleeth; arr. Cynthia Dobrinski

Cast in Bronze; Christine Winkler Johnson, director

Offering Our Gifts

Pastor Jeanine Alexander

* **Hymn** *Come and Find the Quiet Center*

The Faith We Sing #2128

Sermon *Dear Matilda*

Bishop David Bard

* **Hymn** *The Servant Song*

The Faith We Sing #2222

Benediction

Pastor Jeanine Alexander

Choral Benediction *The Blessing of Aaron*

Norman Ramsey

Sanctuary Choir; Derek Bromme, director

Postlude **hymn improvisation**

Justin Rubin, organ

* *please stand as you are comfortable*



Announcements

Please remember to fill out the Connect Cards each week. Keeping attendance and making sure the church has your current contact information is an important part of church records. **On the back of the card**, is a list of ministry opportunities, where your help can make a difference! These will change often, so check them each week and please sign up where you can.

Guests: Welcome to First United Methodist Church. We are so glad you are worshipping with us today! Please stop by the Welcome Desk in the Narthex; we have a packet and small gift for first-time visitors.

Thank you to Dr. Justin Rubin for playing the organ this morning. Velda Bell is on vacation and will return next Sunday.

Baptized this morning: Matilda Lin Bard-Henke, born October 1, 2024. Matilda's parents are Beth and Michael Bard-Henke, and her grandparents are David and Julie Bard, and Peter and Erika Henke. Her big sister is Eleonora Bard-Henke. Sponsors are Christopher Bechtel and David Bard.



From Linda Wiig: plan to have either lunch or dinner at Texas Roadhouse today, **May 18**. The restaurant will donate 10% of your total food purchases to the Arrowhead Parish Nurse Association. There will be a table where you can pick up a flyer to give to your server.

Today is the last day of Sunday School until fall. Watch for information about summer activities for children and families. The nursery will be available every Sunday during the summer and will include a special lesson for children in kindergarten and younger.



to Debbi and Tom King, who are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary! Please help them celebrate with cake in Lakeview Social Hall after worship.

Garden dates: We'll be planting geraniums on **Thursday, May 29** (rain date May 30) beginning at 9am, and planting annuals the following week, on **Wednesday, June 4** (rain date June 5) also beginning at 9am. New volunteers are always welcome!



Rhubarb season is coming! We have again pledged to make 200 strawberry/rhubarb pies, 100 coffee cakes for resale, and 35 large pans of crisp for the coffee shop. The Rhubarb Festival will be Saturday, June 28 at Asbury UMC. All volunteers are welcome, so please invite family, friends, neighbors and co-workers to join us in the kitchen in June. We need volunteers to pick rhubarb, chop rhubarb, clean and slice strawberries, assemble pies, run the dishwasher, mind the ovens, box, label and transport baked goods.

Drop off rhubarb Sundays, Mondays and Tuesdays **beginning June 1**. If you need someone to pick it for you, let us know and we'll send a rhubarb wrangler to your home.



Kitchen Schedule in June

Every Tuesday: chopping/prep 1:00—4:00 (or if your group would like to come after work, let us know)

Every Wednesday: assembling pies 9:30 – 3:00, wrapping and freezing them

Festival Week: June 23-27 –

Monday 1:00-4:00 - chopping/prep;

*Tuesday -Thursday 9:00-3:00- pie/coffee cake assembling, baking, boxing, labeling;
Friday 8:00-5:00 baking, boxing, labeling, and transport*

To volunteer, email anitazager@gmail.com or look for the sign-up sheets in the church Narthex.

***Conversation with Church Friends:** A group is meeting over Zoom every second and fourth Tuesday at 10am to catch up with each other and talk about what comes up that day. If you're interested in joining the group, contact Pamela Brown at pamela.brown@reliabilitysolutions.us*

***Join LGBTQ neighbors and allies** for a Northland community conversation on **Tuesday, May 27** from 4-7pm at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church (219 N. 6th Ave. E., Duluth). Organized by the multifaith and multiracial statewide network Prism, this is to help connect and empower LGBTQ people in the Northland. Find out more and RSVP at actionnetwork.org/events/northland-lgbtq-community-conversations-duluth*

***Thank you** to the Livestream Team for making the online service possible.*

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Ways You Can Help Your Church



***Volunteers are needed to help with preparation for the Rhubarb Festival.** See the information above and email anitazager@gmail.com or look for the sign up sheets in the church Narthex.*

***Ways to give to support your church:** give online at fumcduluth.com OR use the QR code OR text COPPERTOP to 73256 OR mail to FUMC, 230 E. Skyline Parkway, Duluth, MN 55811.*





to our graduates:

High School:

Olive Jeannette is graduating from Duluth East High School Academic Excellence Online. She will be pursuing a Dental Assistant degree.

Bella Serck is graduating from Duluth East High School. Next year she will be studying exercise science at the University of Iowa.

Post-Secondary:

Evy Fairchild graduated from Minnesota State University–Mankato, majoring in applied health science. She is pursuing a master's degree in communication sciences and disorders, and wants to be a speech therapist.

Marcus Guilani graduated from Grand Canyon University in Phoenix, Arizona with a Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering.

Henry Mattson graduated from St. Scholastica with a Bachelor of Arts in English. He plans on working and performing at the Duluth Playhouse, and within two years expects to attend law school in the Twin Cities.

Sandra Moe is graduating from Rocky Mountain College in Billings, Montana with a master's degree in physician assistant studies.

Rhonda Montavon graduated from UWS with a master's degree in counseling - both clinical mental health and marriage and family therapy. She will be working at Duluth Counseling Center, specializing in the treatment of eating disorders, personality disorders, and trauma as well as providing couple's therapy. She has also been appointed to the board of directors for NAMI (National Alliance for Mental Illness)-Lake Superior South Shore chapter. It's a great opportunity to serve the community and provide free mental health resources.

Clair Thomsen graduated from UMD with a Bachelor of Business Administration, and is starting an MBA graduate program in June.

Brennen Werner graduated from the University of Minnesota with a Bachelor of Science degree in kinesiology and a minor in sports coaching. This summer he will begin a doctorate of physical therapy program at the University of Wisconsin–LaCrosse.

Emily Wetzel earned a Bachelor of Science in exercise physiology and a music minor from St. Scholastica. She will be starting the doctorate program for physical therapy at St. Scholastica in mid-June and will also be performing with the Two Harbors City Band and Strikepoint over the summer.

Mayson Whitlock graduated from the University of Montana in Missoula, Montana with a Bachelor of Science degree in wildlife and biology.

Erin Wiig graduated with an MBA in leadership and change from St. Scholastica. She plans to continue working at the University of MN Medical School in Admissions. Erin thanks the scholarship committees for the Ardath Gibson and Lennon-Berini scholarships. They were such an honor and a great help along this journey.

