

First Evangelical Intheron Church Ordinory Time | July 2-30, 2023

Sundays at 9:30am









Welcome to First Evangelical Intheran Church

We welcome all who worship here today, especially those who have joined us as guests.

We invite you to discover God's presence with us through this ancient rhythm of worship as we gather together, hearing the word, sharing the feast, and are sent in blessing.

A note on Ordinary Time

We are in the longest season of the church year. Our liturgical color is green. This season is often been called "the LONG green season," and it is. But a few years ago I heard it called "the green, growing season." We, here in Nebraska, can certainly appreciate a green, growing season.

May you have a blessed and growth-filled green, growing season!

Children in Worship

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs..."

Mark 10:14

If needed, there is a "children's room" at the back of the sanctuary. children's bulletins and activities are also available. Ask an usher for directions if you have trouble finding anything.

July 2 | 5th Weekend after Pentecost

The welcome of baptism is for all God's children. This baptismal gift sets us free from the power of sin and death. In today's gospel, Christ promises that the disciple who gives a cup of cold water to the little ones serves Christ himself. From worship we are sent on our baptismal mission: to serve the little ones of this world and to be a sign of God's merciful welcome.

July 16 | 7th Weekend after Pentecost

God's word is like the rain that waters the earth and brings forth vegetation. It is also like the sower who scatters seed indiscriminately. Our lives are like seeds sown in the earth. Even from what appears to be little, dormant, or dead, God promises a harvest. At the Lord's table we are fed with the bread of life, that we may bear fruit in the world.

July 23 | 8th Weekend after Pentecost

It is an age-old question: why is there evil in the world? In the parable of the wheat and the weeds Jesus suggests that both grow together until the harvest. With Paul, we long for the day that all creation will be set free from bondage and suffering. Having both weeds and wheat within us, we humbly place our hope in the promises of God, and from the Lord's table we go forth to bear the fruit of justice and mercy.

July 30 | 9th Weekend after Pentecost

As Solomon prays for wisdom, we seek to more deeply know the treasures of faith. In today's gospel Jesus offers everyday images that reveal to us the reign of God: a tree that becomes a sheltering home, yeast that penetrates and expands, a treasured pearl, a net that gains a great catch. Even as we seek the riches of God's reign, the great surprise is that God's grace finds us first!







gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Prelude

The assembly stands.

stands. **Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who greets us in this and every season, whose word never fails, whose promise is sure. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of our neighbors.

Merciful God,

we confess that we have sinned. We have hurt our community. We have squandered your blessings. We have hoarded your bounty. In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Righteous God,

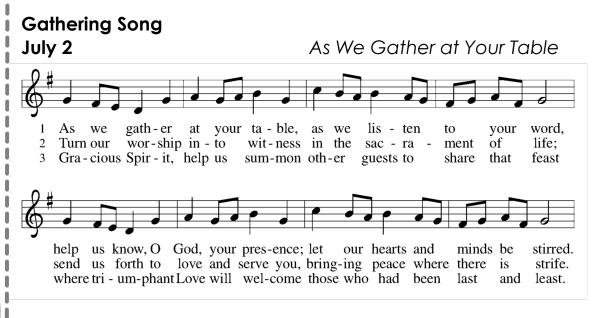
we confess that we have sinned. We have failed to be honest. We have lacked the courage to speak. We have spoken falsely. In the name of Jesus,

forgive us and grant us your mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God is a cup of cold water when we thirst. God offers boundless grace when we fail. Claim the gift of God's mercy: you are freed and forgiven in the name of + Jesus Christ.

Amen.







Text: Handt Hanson, b. 1950 Music: GOOD SOIL, Handt Hanson

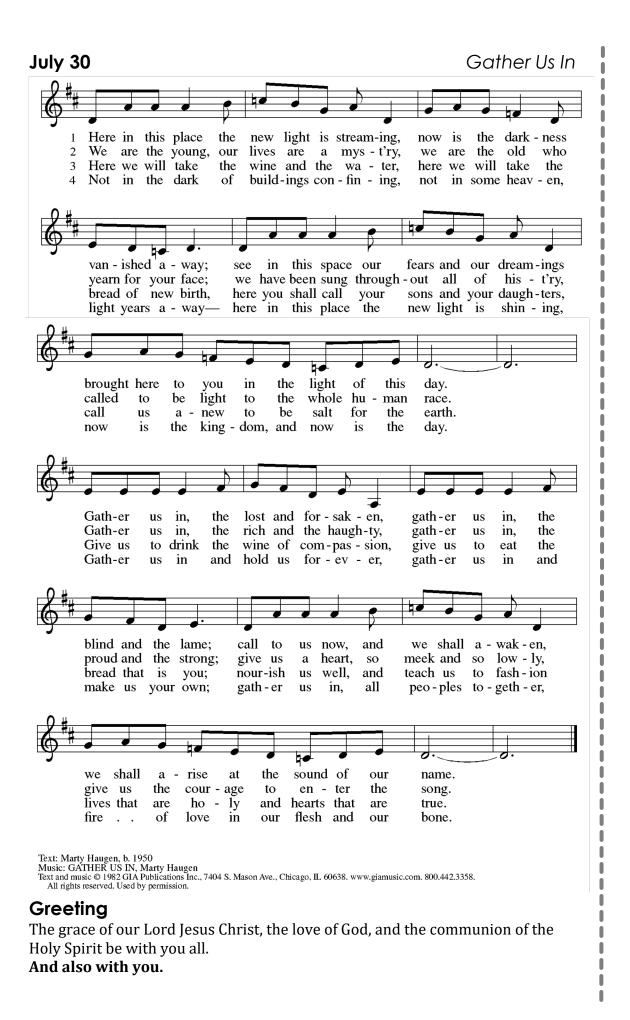
Text and music © 1985 Prince of Peace Publishing, Changing Church, Inc., admin. Augsburg Fortress.

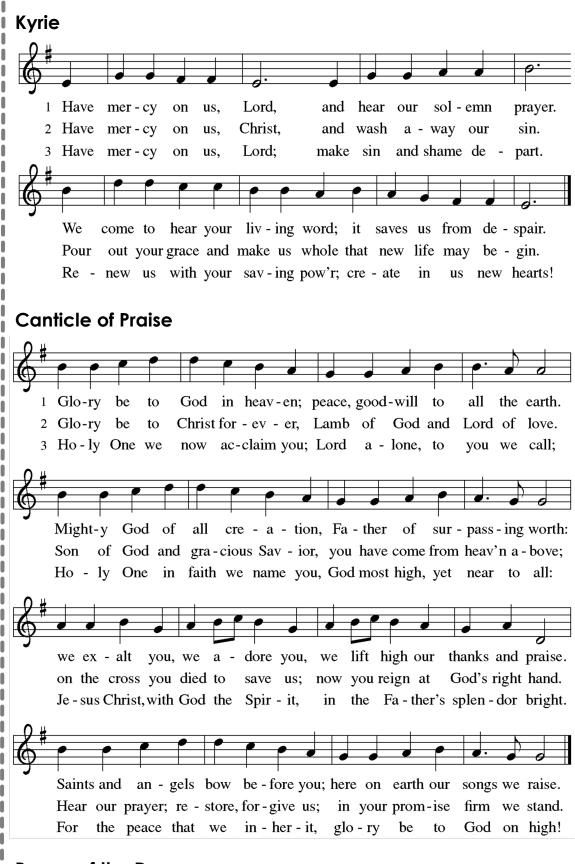
July 23 O Holy Spirit, Enter In 0 0 1 O Spir - it, our hearts your Ho - ly and in en - ter in, 2 Left to our - selves, we the sure - ly stray; oh, lead us on 3 O might - y Rock, O Source of life, let your good Word in work be - gin, and make our hearts your dwell-ing. Sun of the soul, with wis - est coun - sel guide us; and give us stead nar - row way, doubt and strife be in us strong - ly burn - ing, that we be faith -O Light di-vine, us bright-ly shine, a-round and in your strength fast-ness, that we may fol - low you for - ev - er free, no mat and live in love and ho - ly faith, ful un - to death from you up - well - ing. In your ra - diance life from heav - en now is in us de - rides us. Gent - ly heal those hearts now bro - ken; give some ter who true wis - dom learn-ing. Lord, your mer - cy on us show-er; by your 0 o - ver-flow-ing, gift gifts giv - en of be - yond all know - ing. to - ken you are near us, whom we trust to light and cheer us. pow-er Christ con-fess-ing, we will cher - ish all your bless - ing.

Text: Michael Schirmer, 1606–1673; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, adapt. Music: WIE SCHÖN LEUCHTET, Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608

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Prayer of the Day Let us pray.

July 2

O God, you direct our lives by your grace, and your words of justice and mercy reshape the world. Mold us into a people who welcome your word and serve one another, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

July 16

Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

July 23

Faithful God, most merciful judge, you care for your children with firmness and compassion. By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

July 30

Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.



God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

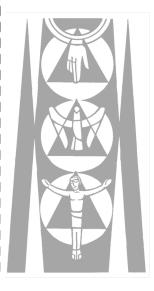
First Reading

July 2 Jeremiah 28:5-9 July 16 Isaiah 55:10-13 July 23 Isaiah 44:6-8 July 30 1 Kings 3:5-12

The reading concludes: The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

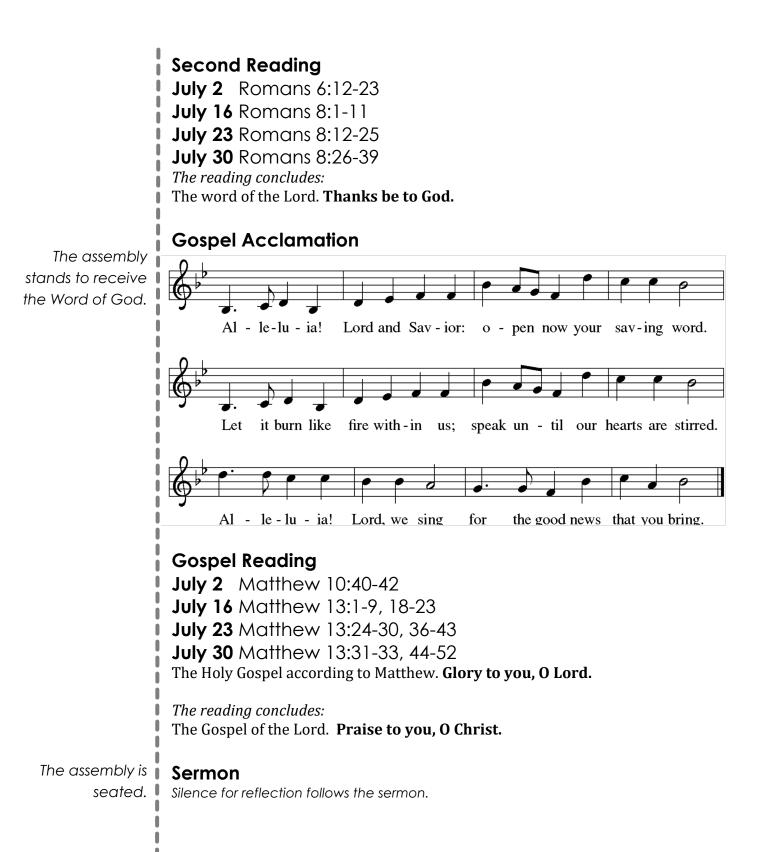
Responsive Reading

July 2 Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18 July 16 Psalm 65 July 23 Psalm 86:11-17 July 30 Psalm 119:129-136 The Psalm will be read responsively by whole verse. The assembly is seated.



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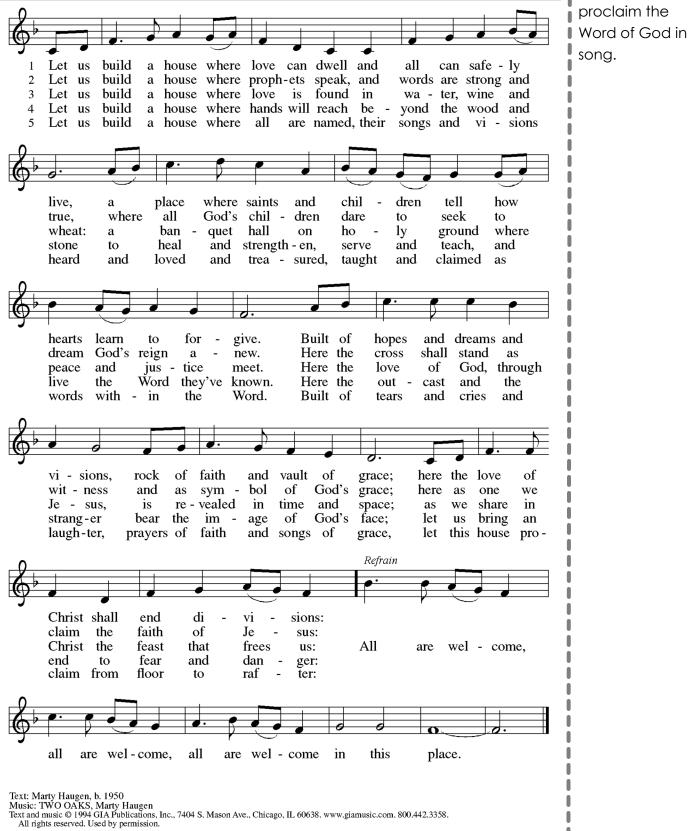


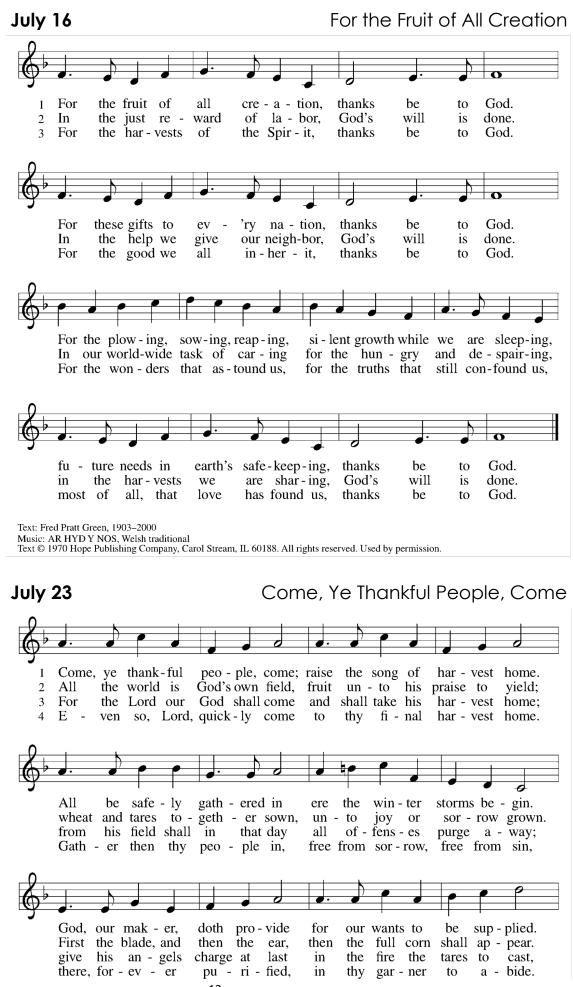
Hymn of the Day July 2

All Are Welcome

The assembly

stands to







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Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860–1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880–1931 Music: SLANE, Irish traditional

Creed

With the whole church, let us confess our faith using the words of the 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 Intercession

The prayers begin:

JUly 2 Trusting in God's abundant mercy, let us offer our prayers for a world in need.

Each portion of the prayers ends with these or similar words:

God, in your mercy, Hear our prayer.

The presiding minister concludes the prayers with these or similar words: Receive our prayers and answer us, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

JUly 16-30 Confident that God receives our joys and concerns, let us offer our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of creation.

Each portion of the prayers ends with these or similar words:

Hear us, O God, Your mercy is great.

The presiding minister concludes the prayers with these or similar words: Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, in the name of the one who reconciled all creation to himself. Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

Peace

Greetings and signs of peace are shared by those gathered to reconcile ourselves to one another before sharing in the Lord's Supper.

The peace of Christ be with you always. And also with you.

Let us share signs of peace with one another.



God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Offerina

Bread, wine, money, and other gifts may be brought forward, while the assembly sings:

People may greet one another with words of Christ's peace, such as, "Peace be with you" or similar words.

The assembly is seated after the peace is shared.



Music: LIVING BREAD, St. Vincent traditional, adapt.; arr. Patrick Prescod, 1932–2013 Text and music © Caribbean Conference of Churches

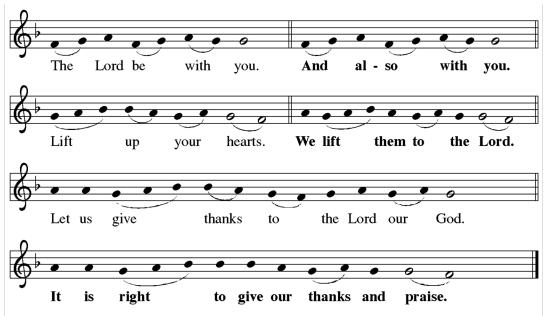
Offering Prayer

Let us pray.

God of field and forest, sea and sky, you are the giver of all good things. Sustain us with these gifts of your creation, and multiply your graciousness in us, that the world may be fed with your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Great Thanksgiving



An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. During this time, the table is set and the pianist may offer a song.

After the offering is gathered, **the assembly stands** for the singing of the offertory hymn.

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Our church believes that when we celebrate communion, we gather around God's table. At this table we share the true body and true blood of Christ, in, with, and through the bread and wine. We are fed and nurtured around this table with the whole church of every age. All are welcome.

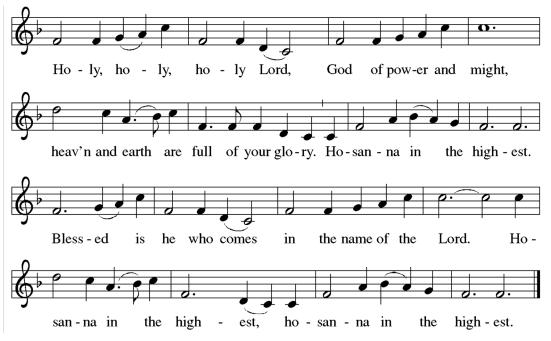
The assembly may be seated, while awaiting the usher's invitation to come to the table.

As you approach the table, simply reach out your hand and the bread will be given to you; take a small cup from the tray the assisting minister is holding. Wine is purple and in the outer rings of the tray. Grape juice is at the center of the tray. Gluten free wafers are available. Let the server know if you would like this option.

After communing you may return to your seat by the side aisle.

If you are unable to come forward, communion will be brought you. Please let the usher know if this is needed. The presiding minister continues:

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Thanksgiving at the Table

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

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 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.

Invitation to Communion

All people are called to Christ's table. Come, eat what is good.

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you. and each person may respond Amen.

Post Communion Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in peace. **Amen.**

Prayer After Communion

Let us pray.

We thank you, generous God, for the refreshment we have received at your banquet table. Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world, through the one who is our dearest treasure, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.



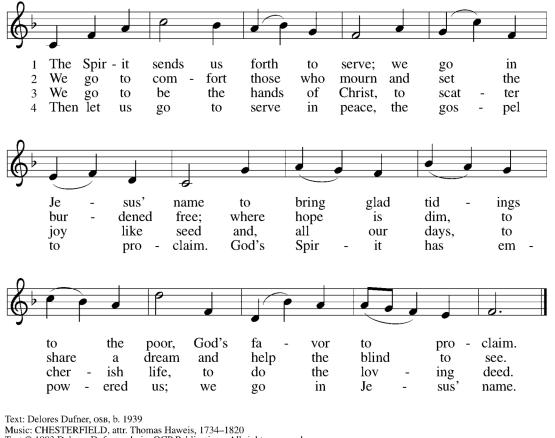
God blesses us and sends us forth in mission to the world.

Blessing

The God who calls across the cosmos and speaks in the smallest seed + bless, keep, and sustain you now and to the end of the age. Amen.

Sending Song July 2

The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve



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July 23 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling Joy heav'n, to Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, of 1 Breathe, oh, breathe thy Spir - it 2 lov - ing in to ev 'ry de - liv - er; Come, Al-might - y, thy 3 to let us all cre - a - tion, thy 4 Fin ish then new pure and spot - less earth come down! thy Fix in us thy hum - ble dwell-ing, all trou - bled breast; all thee let us in in - her - it; let us re - ceive; sud - den ly nev - er, life re turn, and nev - er let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je sus, thou art all com - pas - sion, find thy prom - ised rest. Take a - way the love sin - ning; of Thee more thy tem - ples leave. we would be al - ways bless - ing, stored in thee! Changed from glo - ry re in - to glo - ry, ly pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis it us with Al - pha and 0 be; faith, _ me ga end of as serve thee thy hosts a - bove, praise thee as pray, and till in heav'n we take our place, till we cast our thy sal - va tion, en ter ev -'ry trem - bling heart. its be - gin ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty. per - fect love. with out ceas ing, glo ry in thy be - fore lost won - der, love, praise! crowns thee, in and Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788 Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811-1887

Dismissal

Go in peace. Share the harvest. Thanks be to God.

We are sent into the world to do God's work and care for God's people.

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An ordinary week at First Lutheran:

Sundays:	9:30 am	Worship
Tuesdays:	9 am-12 Noon	Front Office Open
Thursdays:	9-11 am	Quilting
	9 am-12 Noon	Front Office Open
	7:30-8:30pm	Bible Study
Fridays:	9 am-12 Noon	Front Office Open

All are welcome!

Upcoming Events

July 9 @ 9:30am

Outdoor Worship Service

*Bring a chair and stay after worship for sloppy joes!



Register online for VBS at www.firstlutheranyork.org. If you have questions, or would like to help out, contact the church office.

Please take this bulletin home with you or recycle it on your way out after July 30th. Thank you!

First Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America God's work. Our hands.