



WORSHIP

Sanctuary

September 14, 2025

It is good to love many things, for therein lies the true strength, and whosoever loves much performs much, and can accomplish much, and what is done in love is well done. ~ Vincent Van Gogh

THE GATHERING

GATHERING MUSIC

What a Friend We have in Jesus
Gloria Song, organ

James Pethel

WELCOME

Rev. Brian Paulson

❖ CALL TO WORSHIP - Psalm 96:1-2

Sadie Gibson

Leader: O sing to the Lord a new song;

People: **sing to the Lord, all the earth.**

Leader: Sing and give praise to God's name;

People: **tell the good news of salvation from day to day.**

❖ HYMN #401

Here in this Place

GATHER US IN

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Nicole Chapman-Farley

O Lord our God,
you call us to work for a world
where all will be fed and have dignity,
but we find ourselves distracted by our own desires.
You call us to seek justice and peace,
but we are satisfied with injustice and discord.
You call us to bring liberty to the oppressed,
but we do not insist on freedom for all.

Forgive us, O Lord.
Turn us to your will by the power of your Spirit,
so that all may know your justice and peace;
through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior.

(Silence for personal confession.)

Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.
Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

❖ GLORIA PATRI (*Glory to God*) Hymnal #581

❖ PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST & BLESSING THE CHILDREN

As the congregation greets one another, children are invited to join our Sunday School teachers and depart for Sunday School.

THE WORD

An NRSV pew Bible is available for your convenience. You may access other versions using your mobile device at biblegateway.com.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Elder Jodi Craiglow

FIRST READING OF HOLY SCRIPTURE Psalm 46 (NRSVue)

ANTHEM

Be Strong in the Lord
Chancel Choir - David H. Edelfelt; Gloria Song, organ

Thomas Matthews

SECOND READING FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE *Matthew 8:5-13 (NRSVue)*

- ❖ HYMN #465 *What a Friend We Have in Jesus* (vv. 1 & 3) CONVERSE
SERMON *Fearless Love* Dr. Paulson

THE RESPONSE

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

- ❖ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH - *Ephesians 2:14-15* (The Message)

The Messiah has made things up between us so that we're now together on this, both non-Jewish outsiders and Jewish insiders. He tore down the wall we used to keep each other at a distance. He repealed the law code that had become so clogged with fine print and footnotes that it hindered more than it helped. Then he started over. Instead of continuing with two groups of people separated by centuries of animosity and suspicion, he created a new kind of human being, a fresh start for everybody.

TABLE TALK

SESSION REPORT

Session Elder Carol Braunschweig

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Leader: We give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

OFFERING

God Is My Rock
Chancel Choir; Gloria Song, organ

J.F. Peter

- ❖ PRAISE GOD—HYMN #608 (*The Doxology*) PRAISE GOD

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ, all people here below;
praise Holy Spirit evermore; praise Triune God, whom we adore.*


PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE, DEDICATION, AND 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

THE SENDING

- ❖ HYMN #833 *O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go* ST. MARGARET
❖ CHARGE
❖ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE *O Christ, Surround Me* GREEN TYLER


Voice



Christ in the eyes of all who see me, Christ in the ears that hear my voice,

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V.



Christ in the hearts of all who know me: O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.

The Meeting of the Congregation

- ❖ BLESSING

IN MINISTRY TOGETHER

Ministers	The Congregation
Officers	The Session and the Board of Deacons
Pastor	The Rev. Dr. Brian R. Paulson
Associate Pastor	The Rev. Amy Heinrich
Associate Pastor	The Rev. Nicole Chapman-Farley
Pastoral Resident	Alex Barnes, M.Div. (<i>In Chapel today</i>)
Music, Department Head	Gloria Song

A complete list of our staff team is found at FirstPresLibertyville.org

Rev. Amy Heinrich is away this week for an important family event.

Sunday School

Sunday School (Ages 3–5th Grade, 10:15–11:00 AM)

- **Check-in kiosks:** Chapel narthex, Sanctuary narthex, CE Wing
- **Name tags:** For all children (and accompanying adults of younger children)
- **Dismissal:** Teachers/helpers with signs will guide kids to classrooms
- **Pick-up:** Please pick up promptly after worship so leaders can join the Congregational Meeting

Classrooms:

- Ages 3–4 → Rooms 105/106
- Grades K–1 → Rooms 204/205
- Grades 2–3 → Room 209
- Grades 4–5 → Room 202

Need help? Ask any usher or pastor

Community Notes



Church Calendar: www.firstpreslibertyville.org/calendar

Today

10:00 AM Worship in the Chapel & Sanctuary
10:15 AM Sunday School PreK-5th Grade
11:00 AM Special Congregational Meeting (Sanctuary)
11:00 AM Social Hour (Social Hall)
4:00 PM Senior High Fellowship (Chapel, Youth Lounge & Social Hall)

Tuesday, September 16

7:30 PM Fall Adult Ed Class (Social Hall)

Wednesday, September 17

4:00-5:30 PM PADS Food Donation Drop Off (Sanctuary Entrance)

Next Sunday

10:00 AM Worship in the Chapel & Sanctuary
10:15 AM Sunday School PreK-8th Grade
11:00 AM Social Hour (Social Hall & Courtyard)
4:00 PM Junior High Fellowship (Chapel, Youth Lounge & Social Hall)



Parish Life Newsletter: www.firstpreslibertyville.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mobile Food Pantry Volunteering (Sept. 20)
Guest Preacher: Rev. Dr. Phil Butin (Sept. 28)
First Communion Class (Sept. 28)
World Communion Sunday (Oct. 5)
Cuba Conversation (Oct. 5)
Women's Fall Retreat at Ragdale (Oct. 18)
Love Every Neighbor (Oct. 19)
Inquirers Class (Nov. 9)
Men's Overnight Retreat (Nov. 21-22)

Congregational Meeting: Please stay after worship for a Special Congregational Meeting for the purpose of authorizing the sale of property. All active members are encouraged to attend. Childcare will be provided.

Women's Retreat: Finding Balance: Early Bird registration is now open for Oct. 18 Women's Fall Retreat at Ragdale in Lake Forest. Led by Rev. Amy Heinrich, this day offers space to pause, breathe, and reconnect with God and one another. The retreat will include gentle yoga led by Stephanie Bersh (with options for chair yoga), prayer, conversation, a contemplative walk, reflection, and a shared meal. Explore what it means to live with greater balance—body, mind, and spirit. Cost: \$35 (includes catered lunch). Sign up today at www.firstpreslibertyville.org and receive a \$5 Early Bird discount.

Men's Overnight Retreat: Ordinary Clay Jars: Men of all ages are invited to the Men's Overnight Retreat with Rev. Dr. Phil Butin, November 21–22 at the Siena Retreat Center in Racine, WI. Together we'll step away from daily demands to explore how Christ-like qualities of humility, servanthood, and vulnerability can shape our lives at work, at home, and in our church. Registration is now open! Sign up at www.firstpreslibertyville.org.

Help Provide Youth Group Meals: Our Youth Groups are starting an exciting new format this year—and shared meals are an important part of it! We're inviting members of the congregation to support our youth by providing dinner on a Sunday evening. A Meal Train has been set up for each group to make sign-ups simple. Please see Parish Life for details!

PADS Food Collection: Donations may be dropped off on Wednesdays between 4:00 and 5:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary Narthex. Please see www.firstpreslibertyville.org for items needed.