



**Feast of St. Francis of Assisi
& Blessing of the Animals**

October 4, 2026
9:30 am



**DIAMOND
LAKE
LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

Facility Guide

Accessibility

Hearing devices, noise-reduction earmuffs, and large print bulletins are available for worship services—please see the ushers for assistance. Automatic door openers are present on the main doors and restroom doors in the Commons Area. An elevator that accesses all floors can be found in the hallway to the right when entering from the main glass doors. Please feel free to borrow a walker or wheelchair (found in the entryway) for your time in our building.

Restrooms

Men's, women's, and all-gender restrooms are located in the Commons Area. They are to the left of the Lakeview Room entrance (or directly to your left when entering through the main glass doors).

Emergency and First Aid

A first aid kit, automated external defibrillator (AED), and fire extinguisher are located on the left when entering through the main doors. Other fire extinguishers can be found in the Narthex (the back of the sanctuary), the Vestry (front left of the sanctuary), and throughout the building.

Lost and Found

Missing something? Our Lost and Found is in the Commons Area coat room. Stop by anytime to check for items that may belong to you.

Notice of Filming and Photography

During worship services and church events at Diamond Lake Lutheran Church, photography and video recording may occur. These images and recordings may be used in church publications, social media, and other communications to share and celebrate our ministry. If you prefer not to be included in photos and video, please let an usher or staff member know. Thank you for your understanding and for being part of our community life together.

Welcome to Diamond Lake Lutheran Church!

We are so glad you are here! If you'd like more information about this community of faith, please fill out a Welcome card (found in the pew pockets near the hymnals) and place it in the offering plate or hand it to Pastor Andrea or an usher following worship. Take the Grow card with you if you wish! We invite you to enjoy coffee and Bogart's Doughnuts in the Commons before and after worship. Please wear your name tag each Sunday—it helps us welcome guests, get to know one another, and support those with memory concerns. If you don't yet have one, visit the Commons Area name tag station to make yours. We encourage adding pronouns to name tags!

Children in Worship

Children are encouraged to be present for worship—build-your-own activity bags are located in the narthex, along with children's bulletins. Children are invited to use the Pray-Ground at the front of the sanctuary. A nursery is located on the lower level if you need it. Please ask an usher for directions. If you are a nursing parent, you are welcome to nurse anywhere. If you would like privacy, there is a nursing room in the nursery downstairs.

Participating in Today's Service

Pastor: Rev. Andrea Roske-Metcalf

Assisting Minister: Leslie Pitt

Organist/Pianist: Dr. Kevin Hobbs

Choir Director: Dr. Bruce Gleason

Door Monitor: Jessie Jones

Head Usher: Stephanie Johnson

Ushers: Adam Podratz, Elsie Podratz

Coffee Host:

Greeters: Brandon Werth, Henrietta Werth

Acolyte: Lyle Dean

Reader: Audrey Wesseling

Communion Baker: Sue Nelson

Communion Leader: Anne Groskreutz

Communion Servers: Graydon Royce, Julie Schmidt

A/V Tech: John Strasser, Frank Anderson

Pursers: Joe Andrews, Russ Michaeltz

FEAST OF ST. FRANCIS & BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Today we observe the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, servant of the poor and friend to all creatures. St. Francis' Day has been a traditional time to bless pets and animals, whom St. Francis called his siblings.

We invite you to rise in body or in spirit each time the ‡ symbol appears.

PRELUDE

"The Swan" from Carnival of the Animals, Saint-Saens

WORDS OF WELCOME

TRINITY CHIMES

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 33, Worst

‡ LITANY OF REPENTANCE AND LONGING

In the beginning, the Spirit over the deep;
new life daily unfolding at God's call.

Darkness and light: Good.

Skies, lands, and seas: Good.

The earth and all that fills it—plants and rocks,
the finned, the feathered, the furry: Good.

At the last, humankind in God's image: Very good.

Yet we have failed to draw from that goodness
in care for God's creation.

**Forgive us, God, for the ways we have
exploited earth and its creatures.**

We have misunderstood our calling
to be protectors of God's creation.

Forgive us, God, for the ways we

have exploited earth and its creatures.

We long for new relationships with God's creation
that has been entrusted to us.

**Help us, God, to make a new community
with all that lives alongside us.**

May the merciful God who calls us
to tend earth and all its creatures,
deepen our knowledge of creation's interweaving,
so that our lives are shaped in wholeness and peace
with all living things; in Jesus' name.

Amen.

‡ **GATHERING HYMN**

All Creatures, Worship God Most High!.....ELW 835 (vs. 1, 6)

‡ **GREETING**

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

And also with you.

‡ **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

Holy God, we thank you for the gift of life.

**Recalling Francis who celebrated your love for all creation,
today we embrace our connectedness to all: to wind, sea, and sky;
to earthworm, giraffe, and chicken; to fish and puppy,
to cats of the jungle and in our homes.**

**Deepen our care for all that lives;
in the name of Jesus, our teacher, savior, and friend.**

Amen.

‡ GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



‡ READING: EXODUS 14:5-16, 21-29

A reading from the book of Exodus, chapter fourteen.

When the king of Egypt was told that the people had fled, the minds of Pharaoh and his officials were changed toward the people, and they said, “What have we done, letting Israel leave our service?” So he had his chariot made ready and took his army with him; he took six hundred elite chariots and all the other chariots of Egypt with officers over all of them. The Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and he pursued the Israelites, who were going out boldly. The Egyptians pursued them, all Pharaoh’s horses and chariots, his chariot drivers and his army; they overtook them camped by the sea, by Pi-hahiroth, in front of Baal-zephon.

As Pharaoh drew near, the Israelites looked back, and there were the Egyptians advancing on them. In great fear the Israelites cried out to the Lord. They said to Moses, “Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us, bringing us out of Egypt? Is this not the very thing we told you in Egypt, ‘Let us alone so that we can serve the Egyptians’? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness.” But Moses said to the people, “Do not be afraid, stand firm, and see the deliverance that the Lord will accomplish for you today, for the Egyptians whom you see today you shall never see again. The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to keep still.”

Then the Lord said to Moses, “Why do you cry out to me? Tell the Israelites to go forward. But you lift up your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the Israelites may go into the sea on dry ground.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night and turned the sea into dry land, and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh’s horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the Lord, in the pillar of fire and cloud, looked down on the Egyptian army and threw the Egyptian army into a panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, “Let us flee from the Israelites, for the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt.”

Then the Lord said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers.” So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON FOR ALL GOD’S CHILDREN

Rev. Andrea Roske-Metcalf

HYMN OF THE DAY

Be Thou My Vision.....ELW 793

‡ PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

A brief silence.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name,
Amen.

‡ SHARING OF THE PEACE

May the peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

You may share the peace with those around you.

OFFERING

It is Good, Boersma/Lantz
Diamond Lake Lutheran Choir

General Fund

We give thanks for all the ways members and friends of Diamond Lake Lutheran Church contribute to the mission and vision of this congregation—gifts of time, gifts of participation and expertise, as well as finances. Financial gifts to the general fund help to make possible both in-house and outreach ministries, as well as sharing of our resources with the wider community.

Mission of the Month: Prism Organizing

Prism Organizing is a statewide movement committed to building power for LGBTQIA2S+ equality by developing leaders and organizing communities across Minnesota. Prism collaborates across queer and trans community groups, spiritual traditions, and justice movements to build power for LGBTQIA2S+ thriving, so everyone can live with safety, dignity, and freedom. In an era when LGBTQIA2S+ rights are under increasing attack, Prism organizes Minnesota leaders and communities for bold, strategic action, challenging harmful policies, and advancing a vision of belonging and dignity for all.

Give to the General Fund or the Mission of the Month via:

Cash – Use a “Give Back” envelope from the pew pocket to designate a fund for your donation. Loose cash without an envelope will go towards the General Fund.

Check – Write the name of the designated fund in the memo line.

Phone – Scan the QR code to visit the Give Back page of www.dllc.org and select a fund from the drop-down menu. Repeat the process if giving to both funds.

Thank you!



Scan to Give

‡ OFFERTORY

For the Fruit of All Creation

For the fruit of all creation,
thanks be to God.

For these gifts to every nation,
thanks be to God.

For the plowing, sowing, reaping,
silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safekeeping,
thanks be to God.

In the just reward of labor,
God's will is done.

In the help we give our neighbor,
God's will is done.

In our worldwide task of caring
for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing,
God's will is done.

‡ OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of creation,
you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly.

All blessings are from you;
make us generous with what we have.

Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts
in service to you and in love to our neighbors,
today and always,

Amen.

‡ WORDS OF INSTITUTION

‡ 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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Christ invites you to this table. All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, all who long for the gift of community, come!

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION & BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

As Christ offered himself without restriction to those gathered at the last supper, so too he invites all gathered here to partake in this meal. If you wish to receive the sacrament, come forward with your hands outstretched to receive the bread, and dip it either in the red wine or the white grape juice (both offered in each chalice).

If you wish to receive a blessing, come forward with your hands over your heart.

Gluten-free wafers are available upon request, and a chalice of grape juice is provided for gluten-free intinction. If it is difficult for you to come forward, please inform an usher, and the pastor will bring the sacrament to you in your seat.

If you would like a blessing for your animal family member, please carry or walk them up the center aisle as you come forward for communion. Pastor Andrea will bless your pet, and then you can walk down the steps and rejoin the communion line. If your pet cannot come up the steps, Pastor Andrea will come down to you on the floor. If your pet could not come to church today, feel free to bring up a photo on your phone, or even tell Pastor Andrea the name of your pet, and she will provide a blessing.

COMMUNION HYMNS

<i>On Eagle’s Wings.....</i>	<i>ELW 787</i>
<i>God of the Sparrow.....</i>	<i>ELW 740</i>

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Gracious and loving God,

with this bread and cup

nourish us with mercy and abundant life;

with the companionship of our household animals

deepen our care for all of your good creation.

By your spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world,

helping us to balance our needs with the needs of others,

and leading us into ways of life together that will be sustainable for all.

In Jesus' name we pray,

Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

‡ BLESSING

May the God of love draw us together as one

in the body of Christ Jesus.

Amen.

May the God of hope

grant us strength and joy in all circumstances

by the power and delight of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

May the God of grace bless us now and forever.

Amen.

‡ SENDING HYMN

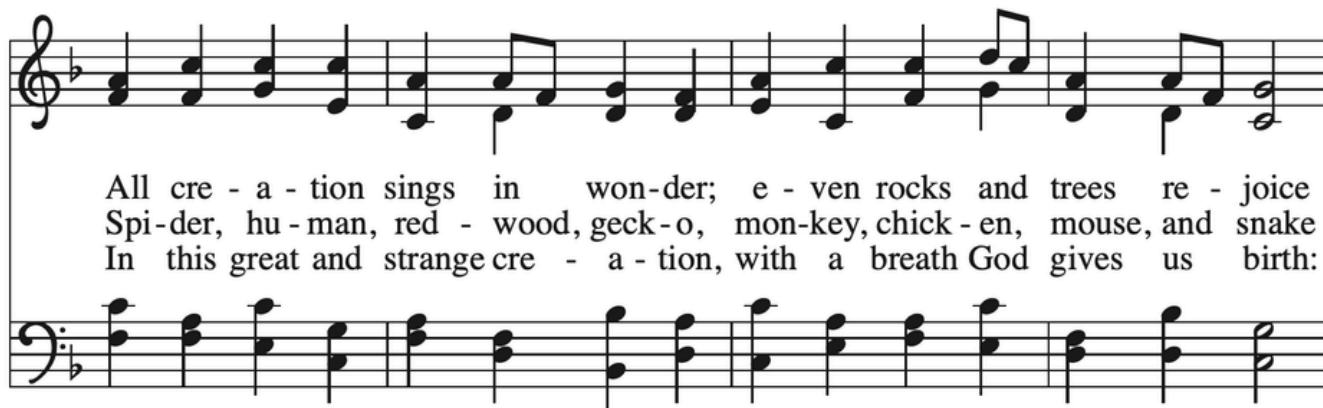
Earth is Full of Wit and Wisdom..... ACS 1064



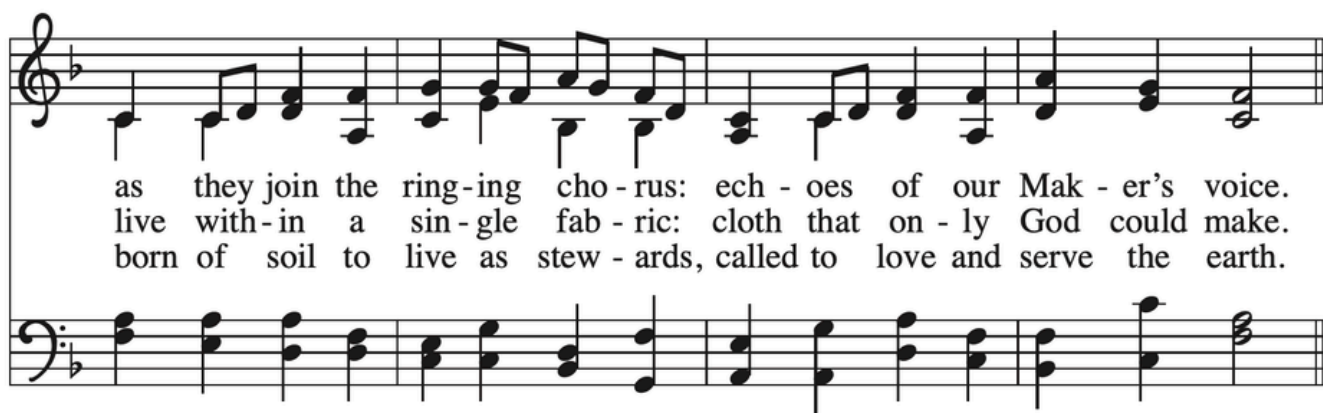
1 Earth is full of wit and wis - dom, sound-ing God's de - light - ed laugh,
2 Earth is full of wit and wis - dom, wo - ven in - to har - mo - ny.
3 Earth is full of wit and wis - dom: pen - guin, pla - ty - pus, and snail,



from the ti - ny ro - ly - po - ly to the tree - top - tall gi - raffe.
Ev - 'ry crea-ture has a pur - pose, ev - 'ry flow'r and bum - ble - bee.
cac - tus, sea slug, oak, and al - gae, from the mi - crobe to the whale.



All cre - a - tion sings in won - der; e - ven rocks and trees re - joice
Spi - der, hu - man, red - wood, geck - o, mon - key, chick - en, mouse, and snake
In this great and strange cre - a - tion, with a breath God gives us birth:



as they join the ring - ing cho - rus: ech - oes of our Mak - er's voice.
live with - in a sin - gle fab - ric: cloth that on - ly God could make.
born of soil to live as stew - ards, called to love and serve the earth.

‡ **DISMISSAL**

Go out in joy! Be led forth in peace.

Thanks be to God.

‡ **CHORAL AMEN**

POSTLUDE

"Wild Donkeys" from Carnival of the Animals, Saint-Saens

This congregation traditionally sits and remains in the sanctuary to hear the postlude, which is offered by Dr. Hobbs. If you need to leave early, please feel free to do so quietly.

Cover: *St. Francis of Assisi #2* by Randy Wollenmann, <https://randy-wollenmann.pixels.com>.

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You are welcome at Diamond Lake Lutheran Church, a Reconciling in Christ congregation. Your presence makes your journey part of our journey—one we share with people of all ages and abilities, family structures, sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions, races and ethnic backgrounds, and financial circumstances. We affirm that every individual is a member of God's family, uniquely created and worthy of belonging. We are joyfully committed to hearing your stories, engaging your gifts, and working alongside you to strive for racial equity, promote social and economic justice, and heal our broken world. This congregation, like all congregations, is fallible and flawed. We make mistakes. But we are dedicated to building relationships with all who believe, doubt, question, seek, and wonder.



We acknowledge that we gather as Diamond Lake Lutheran Church on the traditional land of the Wahpekute band of the Santee division of the Dakota people past and present.

Our mission: Stirred by the Spirit of Christ to learn, follow, and serve.

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Diamond Lake Lutheran Staff

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Dr. Bruce Gleason (he/him) - Diamond Lake Lutheran Choir Director

Chuck Linderkamp (he/him) - Handbell Choir Director

Mary Teurman (she/her) - Nursery Coordinator

Pete Anderson (he/him) - Kitchen Coordinator

Julie Sarff (she/her) - Wedding Coordinator

John Nelson (he/him) - Technology Coordinator

Lucía Salazar-Davidson (she/he) - Artist-Activist in Residence