FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

246 South Main Street Greensburg, Pennsylvania 724-834-1457

Office hours: Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

office@felchurch.org

Chris Combs Marvin J. Huls Pastor Director of Music

WELCOME TO FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH!

We gather here every Sunday to experience the life changing and life-giving grace of God. In this place we discover the truth of which the Bible speaks, "So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!" (2 Cor. 5:17).

We are thankful for your presence among us, thankful to God for His abiding presence that goes with you this week, and hopeful that you will be among us when we gather again.

REFORMATION SUNDAY

October 27, 2024 8:15 AM and 10:45 AM

THE WORSHIP SERVICE

The beginning of the organ prelude is a call to silent, personal preparation for the worship of God.

GATHERING

Prelude

8:15 "The King of Love My Shepherd Is" (arr. Anna Laura Page)
(Handbell Quartet: William Pfeifer, Cheryl Pfeifer, Sue
Boggs, and Elizabeth Rowe)

10:45 "All Things Bright and Beautiful" (arr. Anna Laura Page)
(Handbell Quartet: Charla Keffer, Shirley Huls, Rebecca
Brunetta, and Sue Boggs)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

The assembly stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

In the name of the Father, and of the

→ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The presiding minister may lead one of the following or another prayer of preparation.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. *The assembly kneels or stands. Silence is kept for reflection.*

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

Amen.

The presiding minister announces God's forgiveness.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

HYMN "A Mighty Fortress is Our God" #504

- 1 A mighty fortress is our God, a sword and shield victorious; he breaks the cruel oppressor's rod and wins salvation glorious.

 The old satanic foe has sworn to work us woe!

 With craft and dreadful might he arms himself to fight.

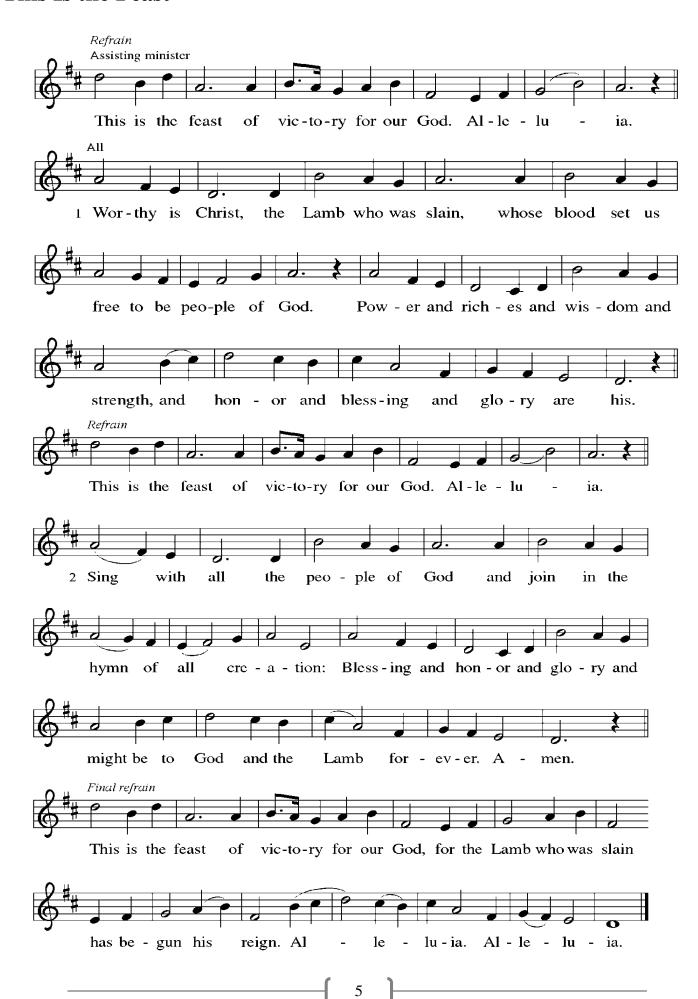
 On earth he has no equal.
- 2 No strength of ours can match his might!
 We would be lost, rejected.
 But now a champion comes to fight,
 whom God himself elected.
 You ask who this may be?
 The Lord of hosts is he!
 Christ Jesus, mighty Lord,
 God's only Son, adored.
 He holds the field victorious.

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.

This Is the Feast



Prayer of the Day

The presiding minister leads the prayer of the day.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

Gracious Father, we pray for your holy catholic church. Fill it with all truth and peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in anything it is amiss, reform it; where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in need, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it; for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

WORD

First Reading Jeremiah 31: 31-34

³¹The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was married to them, says the Lord. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the Lord," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

The Word of the Lord.

R/Thanks be to God!

¹God is our ref- | uge and strength, a very present | help in trouble.

²Therefore we will not fear, though the | earth be moved, and though the mountains shake in the depths | of the sea;

³though its waters | rage and foam, and though the mountains tremble | with its tumult.

⁴There is a river whose streams make glad the cit-|y of God, the holy habitation of | the Most High.

⁵God is in the midst of the city; it shall | not be shaken; God shall help it at the | break of day.

⁶The nations rage, and the | kingdoms shake; God speaks, and the earth | melts away.

⁷The Lord of | hosts is with us; the God of Jacob | is our stronghold.

⁸Come now, regard the works | of the Lord, what desolations God has brought up- | on the earth;

⁹behold the one who makes war to cease in | all the world; who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the | shields with fire.

¹⁰"Be still, then, and know that | I am God; I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted | in the earth."

¹¹The Lord of | hosts is with us; the God of Jacob | is our stronghold.

Second Reading: Romans 3:19-28

¹⁹Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰For "no human being will be justified in the sight of God" by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

²¹But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, ²²the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴they are now justified by God's grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in divine forbearance God had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶it was to prove at the present time that God is righteous and that God justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.

²⁷Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

The Word of the Lord.

R/Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia. If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free. Alleluia.

Gospel

John 8:31-36

P: The Holy Gospel according to John the eighth chapter. R/ Glory to you, O Lord.

³¹Jesus said to the Judeans who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." ³³They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free'?"

³⁴Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶"So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."

P/The Gospel of the Lord.

R/ Praise to you, O Christ.

Youth Sermon

Sermon

HYMN "A Mighty Fortress is Our God" #504

- Though hordes of devils fill the land all threat'ning to devour us, we tremble not, unmoved we stand; they cannot overpow'r us.

 Let this world's tyrant rage; in battle we'll engage!

 His might is doomed to fail;

 God's judgment must prevail!

 One little word subdues him.
- 4 God's Word forever shall abide, no thanks to foes, who fear it; for God himself fights by our side with weapons of the Spirit.

 Were they to take our house, goods, honor, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched away, they cannot win the day.

 The kingdom's ours forever!

APOSTLES' Creed

With the whole church we confess our faith.

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 Church

To stay current with our many continuing prayer needs, we will refresh our prayer list at the beginning of each new month by starting with a clean slate. We understand that many people will continue to need prayer beyond the length of one month. If you wish to continue to have someone listed in the bulletin for public prayer, please call the office by the last Wednesday of the month.

Challenged by God's Word in Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and the whole creation.

At each petition, God of grace, hear our prayer.

The presiding minister concludes the prayers with these words. Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in the saving grace you freely give, both now and forever.

Amen.

The Peace

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace and may say Peace be with you or similar words.

The assembly is seated.

THE MEAL

Offerings may be placed in the plates as they are passed. You can utilize your regular envelopes or the gold envelopes in the pews. You can also utilize our new online giving tool through Tithe.ly by visiting felchurch.org or utilize the QR code here:

Checks can also be mailed to: First Lutheran, 246 S. Main Street, Greensburg, PA 15601.

Thank you for your generous support of First's Ministry.

(Children, please bring your offering to the front of the church and place it in the "Thank You Jesus" Jar.)

Offertory

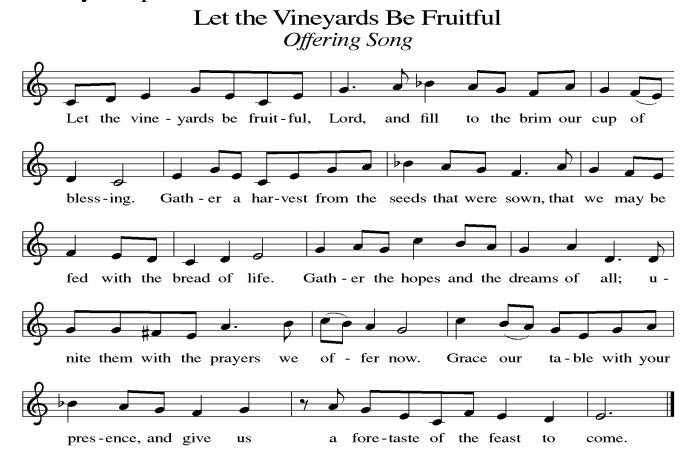
- 8:15 "A Mighty Fortress" (setting by Johann Pachelbel)
- **10:45** "Come and Sing a Song Unto the Lord" (Dan Edwards)

Come and sing a song unto the Lord, oh, come rejoice, lift up your voice and sing in one accord. Shout for joy to God who reigns on high, oh, raise a mighty song of praise, let all the earth reply!

Play the pipe and let the timbrel sound. Come strike the harp, let cymbals crash and raise a joyful sound. Let the earth in ev'ry corner sing. Rejoice, give thanks unto the Lord, our glorious God and King!

Oh, sing hosanna unto our God and King. Oh, sing hosanna, our joyful tidings bring! Oh, sing hosanna, let ev'ry voice be raised. Oh, sing hosanna with hymns of grateful praise!

Offertory Response:



Offertory Prayer (in unison)

Let us pray.

God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things at your table, that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord.

Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

The presiding minister greets the assembly and invites all present to give thanks.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,

that we should at all times and in all places

give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,

through our Savior Jesus Christ;

who on this day overcame death and the grave,

and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,

with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,

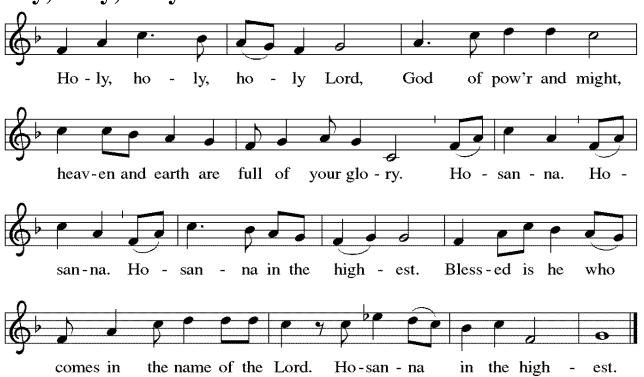
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Communion Hymn (Sung by Choir) "As We Gather" (Hal Hopson)

1. As we gather at our table, as we listen to your word, help us know, O God, your presence, let our hearts and mind be stirred. Nourish us with sacred story till we claim it as our own. Teach us through this holy banquet how to make love's vict'ry known.

- 2. Turn our worship into witness in the sacrament of life. Send us forth to love and serve you, bringing peace where is strife. Give us, Christ, your great compassion to forgive as you forgave. May we still behold your image in the world you died to save.
- 3. Gracious Spirit, help us summon other guests to share that feast where triumphant love will welcome those who had been last and least. There no more will envy blind us, nor will pride our peace destroy, as we join with saints and angels to repeat the sounding joy.

Holy, Holy, Holy



Thanksgiving at the Table

The presiding minister continues, using one of the following.

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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

The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread. Come, taste, and see that the Lord is good.

COMMUNION

All baptized who wish to receive the body and blood of Jesus for the forgiveness of their sins and the nourishment of their lives are welcome. It is not necessary to be a member of First Lutheran to receive the sacrament.

For those receiving the sacrament please note the following: Communion is at the rail for those who desire.

- We encourage everyone to continue using hand sanitizer before coming forward for communion.
- As you approach the chancel, take a plastic cup from the tray.
- The communion rail will fill from both sides of the congregation.
- We encourage everyone to leave added space at the rail, primarily between family units.
- For those who need gluten free or grape juice, please tell the Pastor or assistant during the distribution.
- Cups can be placed in the trays near each side aisle as you return to your pew.
- For those who would like to receive communion, but are not comfortable coming to the rail, please let an Usher know so that the Pastor and Assisting Minister can bring communion to you.

The assembly may be seated.

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.

After all have received,

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

Prayer after Communion

The assisting minister leads a prayer after communion.

Let us pray.

Gracious God, in this meal you have drawn us to your heart and nourished us at your table with food and drink, the body and blood of Christ. Now send us forth to be your people in the world, and to proclaim your truth this day and evermore, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

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

Blessing

The presiding minister proclaims God's blessing.

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. Amen.

Hymn "God's Word is Our Great Heritage" #509

God's word is our great heritage and shall be ours forever; to spread its light from age to age shall be our chief endeavor. Through life it guides our way; in death it is our stay. Lord, grant while time shall last your church may hold it fast throughout all generations.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

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SERVING TODAY:

LECTORS are Kevin Reilly and Bob Errett.

WORSHIP ASSISTANT is Rebecca Brunetta.

SERVING IN OCTOBER:

ALTAR GUILD for October includes Kim Woodley.

PRAYER CONCERNS:

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER this week Brandie, Suzy, Terry, Cullen, Doug, Gavin, Dennis, Kim, Shaun, Nancy, Keith, Levi, Pat, Larry, Connie, and the London family.

THE ALTAR FLOWERS are given in honor of children and grandchildren by Sue Boggs.

THE CHANCEL FLOWERS are given in memory of Robert G. Anna L., and Robert F. Harbaugh by their family.

PRAYER REQUESTS for First's Prayer Chain may be made at any time by calling the church office or by writing the request on the prayer cards in the pew racks and placing it in the offering plate. If for whatever reason you do not want your name listed but would like to be on the prayer list, just let us know when you make your request.

INDEPENDENCE HEALTH SYSTEM (formerly Excela Health) does not notify the church of member admissions. Please notify the pastor or call the church office if you or your loved one is hospitalized.

Saved by Christ and guided by the Holy Spirit we share God's love, through word and deed, in service to all of God's Children

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

THANKS to Pastor Melissa Stoller for leading us in Word and Sacrament today.

THANKS to Jennifer Kist (clarinet) and Ava O'Sullivan (percussion) for their musical assistance.

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE last Sunday was 100.

CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST is available today and each Sunday, 9 - 10:30 AM in the fellowship hall.

CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST The sign-up calendar and instructions are on the table in the narthex. Please sign up for a Sunday.

NEWSLETTER FOLDING Tuesday, 10:00 AM.

FOOD FROM THE HEART Wednesday lunch continues as a BROWN BAG lunch provided from 12 to 12:45 PM. Lunches will be available for pick up by people walking at the gate to the park and to those driving at the basement door on Bononi Way (alley behind the church).

PROPERTY Wednesday, 6:30 PM.

HANDBELL CHOIR Thursday, 6:15 PM.

ANGEL FOOD CAKES (home baked or purchased) are needed the first Sunday of every month for Meals on Wheels. Bring your cake to the church office. Thank you!

PASTOR'S CONTACT INFORMATION: Pastor Chris Combs may be reached either by calling the church office at 724-834-1457, by email at **PastorChris@felchurch.org** or by calling or texting his cell phone at 412-973-4179. If the concern is of an urgent nature, please call his cell phone.

A NURSERY is available for children to use on the second floor of the Education Building, down the hall from the Library.

Stewardship Snippets

Mark 10:51—Then Jesus said to him, "What do you want me to do for you?" The blind man said to him, "My teacher, let me see again." The blind man articulates the faithful prayer of all steward-disciples. We want to see! Help us see the world around us through eyes of God's love and mercy.

RUTH CIRCLE will now assemble <u>20</u> Disaster Relief Buckets in response to recent hurricanes. They will be delivered to UMC distribution center in Cranberry

The congregation can help with monetary donations to purchase the required items. Checks can be written to FELC, with Disaster Buckets on the memo line.

All women are welcome to participate in Ruth projects, fellowship and, of course, delicious desserts. Meetings are held the 2nd Thursday of the month at 7 pm.

God's Work Our Hands

"You cause your wonders to be remembered; you are gracious and full of compassion."

Psalm 111:4



Lutheran Disaster Response: Hurricane Helene

Hurricane Helene hit the coast of Florida as a devastating Category 4 hurricane and moved inland as a tropical storm through the southeastern United States. Millions are without power as heavy rains continue to fall, causing dangerous flooding and landslides, as well as downed trees and power lines.

Wherever this storm goes, Lutheran Disaster Response will be there.



Scan the QR code to give today.

You can also give through the church, mark your offering as LDR – Hurricane Response

By giving to Lutheran Disaster Response, you make it possible for the ELCA to act quickly after disasters such

as Hurricane Helene and remain for as long as the recovery takes.

THE PARABLES OF JESUS



Interested in Jesus' teaching through parables? Join the conversation as we explore some of Jesus' most interesting and challenging teachings.

You have two opportunities each month to join. We will gather at 1:30 PM and 6:00 PM on November 18 (The Good Samaritan) and December 16. Hope to see you there!



The Westmoreland Symphony and Academy Concerts present:

Music of Freedom and Independence

Featuring the Academy String Quartet

Sunday, November 3, 2024 at 2:00 PM Zion's Evangelical Lutheran Church Greensburg PA

"Music of Freedom and Independence is a program of great music connected to the yearning for personal freedom or national independence. You will hear stirring music by Josef Suk, specifically intended to inspire the Czech people to free themselves from Austrian domination at the outset of World War I, and the more subtle Czech nationalism of his father-in-law, Antonin Dvořák, in a lovely string quartet that uses forms and rhythms of Bohemian folk music. We recognize the fight against foreign invasion in Ukraine with an Elegy by Ukrainian composer Vasily Barvinsky, himself a political prisoner of the Soviet Union for 18 years. Bulgaria was under Turkish domination for nearly 500 years, and yet Bulgarian folk music not only survived but shows barely a trace of Turkish influence; the Academy String Quartet plays brandnew Bulgarian Suite by Pittsburgher Thomas Roncevic. Finally, American composer Adolphus Hailstork's Variation on Swing Low, Sweet Chariot expresses the rage of enslaved people and their longing for release from oppression. Beauty, pride, anger, perseverance, grief, faith, and hope are all represented in this concert."

~Warren Davidson, Academy Concerts Director

Tickets (\$20) available online at www.westmorelandsymphony.org and at the door the day of the concert.