FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

Office hours: Monday through Friday, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

office@felchurch.org

Chris Combs — Pastor
Marvin J. Huls — 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.

NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 4, 2026
8:15 AM & 10:45 AM

THE WORSHIP SERVICE

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

GATHERING

Prelude Variations on **"God of Grace and God of Glory"**
(arr. Hal Hopson)

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.

Blessed be the holy Trinity,
☩ one God,
who creates, redeems, and sustains us
and all of creation.
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.

To you, O God,
all hearts are open, to you all desires known. We come to you, confessing our sins. Forgive us in your mercy, and remember us in your love. Show us your ways; teach us your paths; and lead us in justice and truth, for the sake of your goodness in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

The presiding minister announces God's forgiveness.
By water and the Holy Spirit God gives you a new birth, and through the death and resurrection of ☩ Jesus Christ, God forgives you all your sins. The God of mercy and might strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in eternal life.
Amen.

Hymn "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" #803

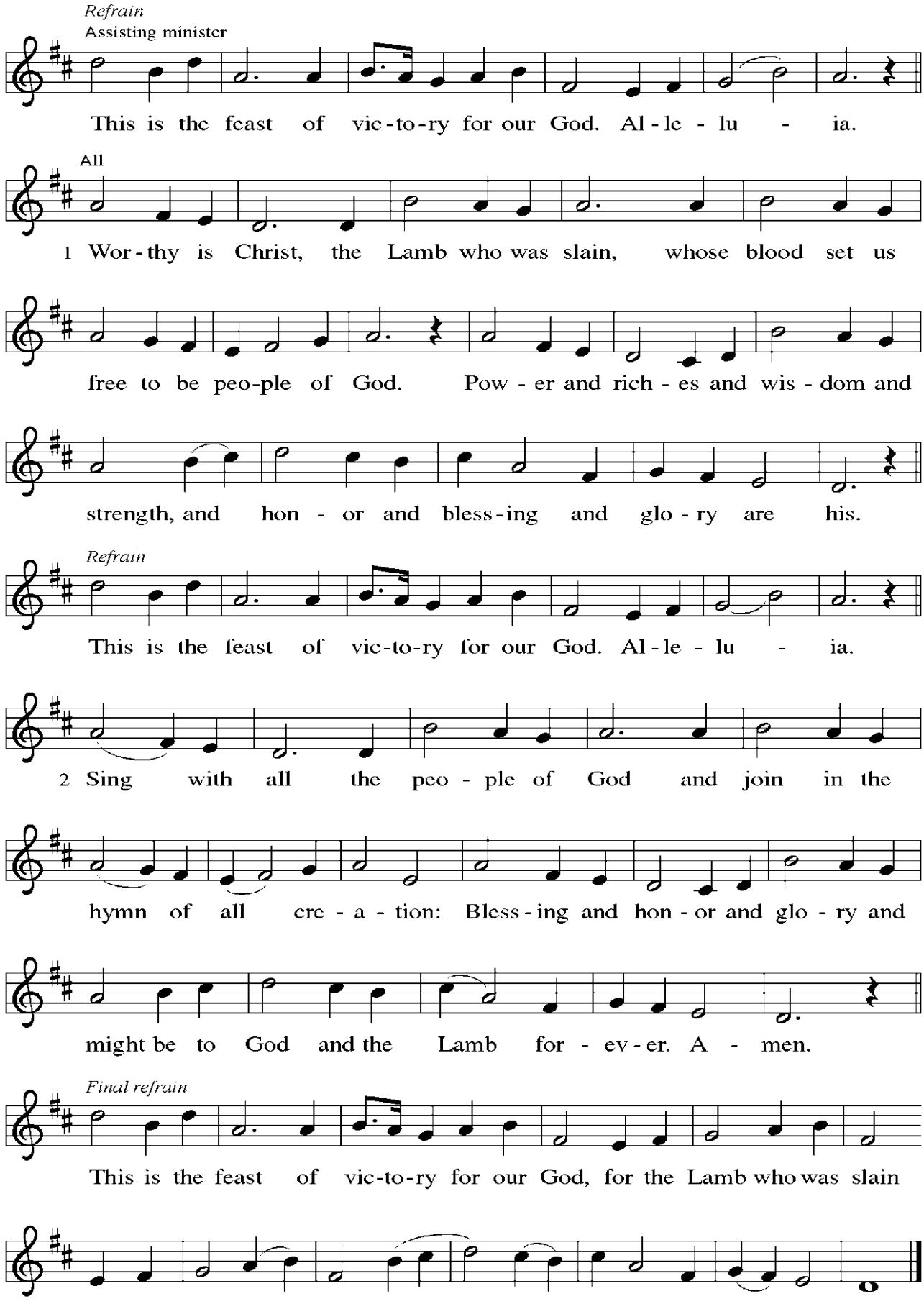
1 When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss
and pour contempt on all my pride.

2 Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
save in the death of Christ, my God;
all the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to his blood.

3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
or thorns compose so rich a crown?

4 Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were a present far too small;
love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.

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.

Beloved God, from you come all things that are good. Lead us by the inspiration of your Spirit to know those things that are right, and by your merciful guidance, help us to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

The assembly is seated.

WORD

First Reading **Isaiah 5:1-7**

1 Let me sing for my beloved
my love-song concerning my beloved's vineyard:
"My beloved had a vineyard
on a very fertile hill.
2 My beloved dug it and cleared it of stones,
and planted it with choice vines;
built a watchtower in the midst of it,
and hewed out a wine vat in it,
and expected it to yield grapes,
but it yielded wild grapes."

3 And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem
and people of Judah,
judge between me
and my vineyard.
4 What more was there to do for my vineyard
that I have not done in it?
When I expected it to yield grapes,
why did it yield wild grapes?

5 And now I will tell you
what I will do to my vineyard.
I will remove its hedge,
and it shall be devoured;
I will break down its wall,
and it shall be trampled down.
6 I will make it a waste;
it shall not be pruned or hoed,
and it shall be overgrown with briers and thorns;
I will also command the clouds
that they rain no rain upon it.

7 For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts
is the house of Israel,
and the people of Judah
are God's pleasant planting;
for the Lord expected justice,
but saw bloodshed;
righteousness,
but heard a cry!

The Word of the Lord. **R/Thanks be to God!**

Psalm 80:7-15 *(Read Responsively)*

7 Restore us, O | God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.
8 **You have brought a vine | out of Egypt;**
you cast out the nations and | planted it.
9 You cleared the | ground for it;
it took root and | filled the land.
10 **The mountains were covered | by its shadow**
and the towering cedar trees | by its boughs.
11 You stretched out its tendrils | to the sea
and its branches | to the river.

12 **Why have you broken | down its wall,**
so that all who pass by pluck | off its grapes?
13 The wild boar of the forest has | ravaged it,
and the beasts of the field have | grazed upon it.
14 **Turn now, O | God of hosts,**
look | down from heaven;
15 behold and | tend this vine;
preserve what your right | hand has planted.

Second Reading **Philippians 3:4b-14**

[Paul writes:] 4b If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: 5 circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; 6 as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

7 Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. 8 More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. 10 I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, 11 if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

12 Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. 13 Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord. **R/Thanks be to God!**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia. **Jesus says, I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will last.** ***Alleluia.***

Gospel **Matthew 21:33-46**

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the twenty-first chapter.
R/ Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] 33 "Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who
planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built
a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country.
34 When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to
collect his produce. 35 But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one,
killed another, and stoned another. 36 Again he sent other slaves, more
than the first; and they treated them in the same way. 37 Finally he sent his
son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' 38 But when the tenants
saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill
him and get his inheritance.' 39 So they seized him, threw him out of the
vineyard, and killed him. 40 "Now when the owner of the vineyard comes,
what will he do to those tenants?" 41 They said to Jesus, "The owner will
put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other
tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time."

42 Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures:

'The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
this was the Lord's doing,
and it is amazing in our eyes'?

43 Therefore I tell you, the dominion of God will be taken away from you
and given to a people that produces the fruits of it. 44 The one who falls
on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom
it falls."

45 When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they
realized that he was speaking about them. 46 They wanted to arrest him,
but they feared the crowds, because the people regarded him as a prophet.

P/The Gospel of the Lord. **R/ Praise to you, O Christ.**

Youth Sermon

Sermon

Hymn "Jesus Loves Me!" #595

1 Jesus loves me! this I know,
for the Bible tells me so;
little ones to him belong,
they are weak, but he is strong.

Refrain
Yes, Jesus loves me,
yes, Jesus loves me,
yes, Jesus loves me,
the Bible tells me so.

2 Jesus loves me! he who died
heaven's gates to open wide;
he will wash away my sin,
let his little child come in. ***Refrain***

3 Jesus loves me! he will stay
close beside me all the way;
when at last I come to die,
he will take me home on high. ***Refrain***

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.

Seeking the Spirit of God who makes all things new, we pray for the church and the world.

At each petition,
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

The presiding minister concludes the prayers with these words.
Trusting in your boundless grace, O God, we lift up these spoken prayers and those in our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
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:

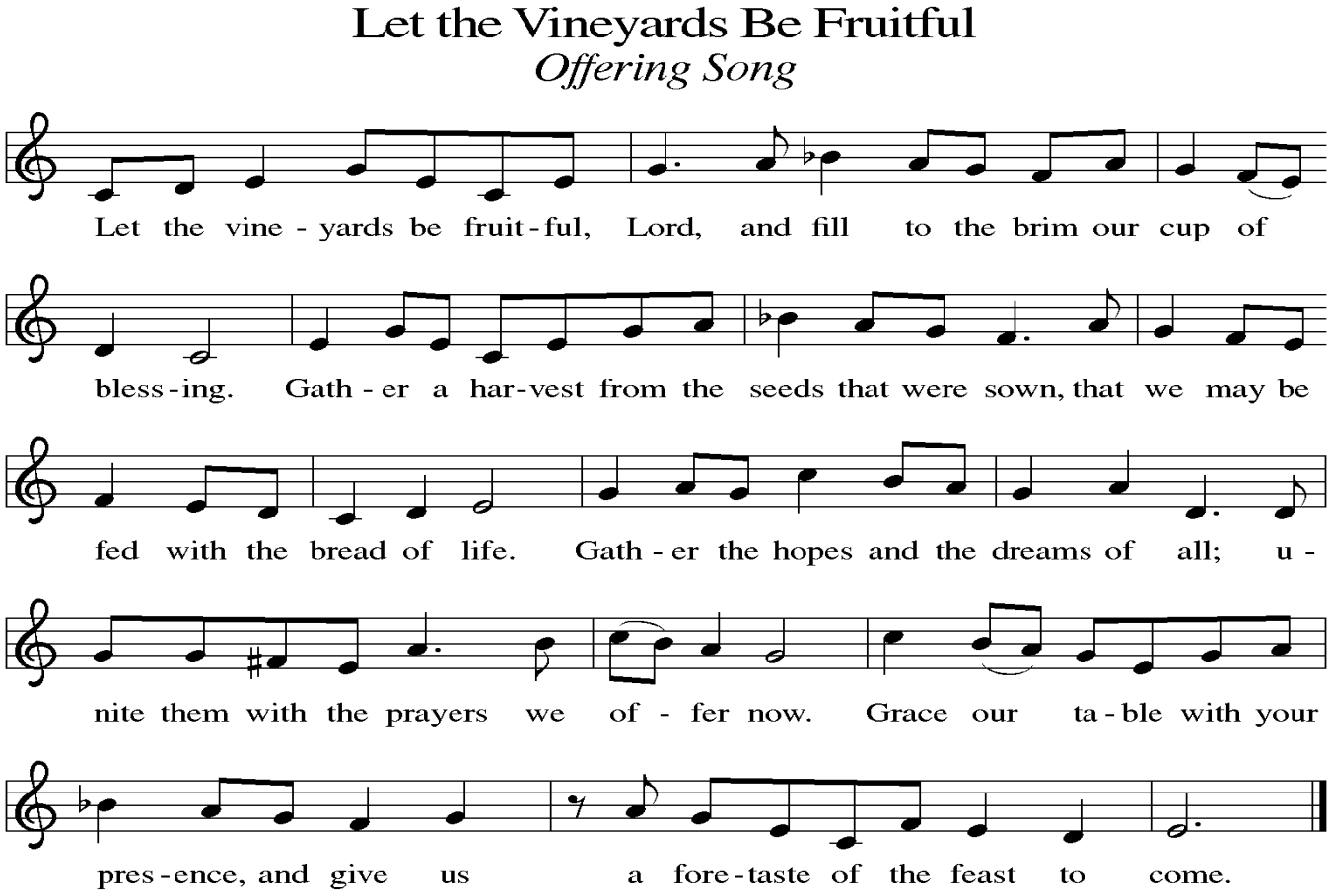
Checks can also be mailed to: First Lutheran, 246 S. Main Street, Greensburg, PA 15601.

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 Largo (G.F. Handel, arr. Hal Hopson)

Offertory Response:



Offertory Prayer (in unison)

Let us pray.
God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

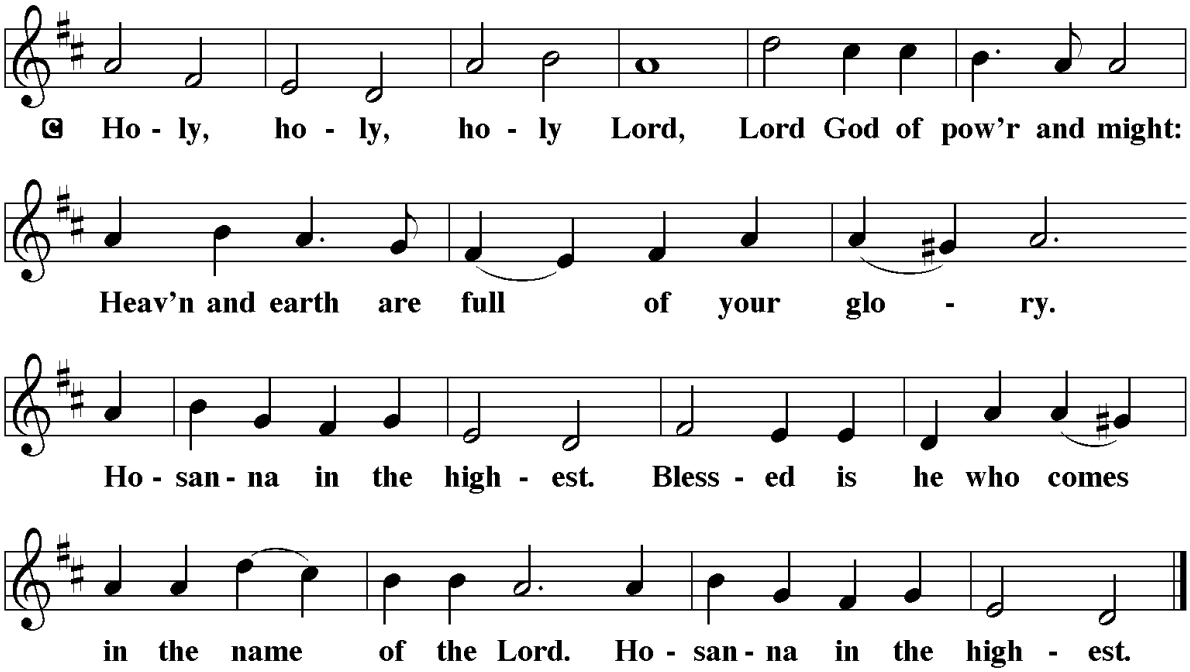
Great Thanksgiving

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:

Holy, Holy, Holy



Thanksgiving at the Table

The presiding minister continues.

Blessed are you, O God,
creator of heaven and earth.
You rescued your covenant people,
led them on all their journeys,
and taught them by the prophets.
You so loved the world
that you gave your only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him
may not perish but may have eternal life.

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.

As often as we eat this bread
and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death
until he comes.

Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit
in this meal,
and make us one
in this community of faith
and with your people
throughout the world.

Glory and praise to you, O God,
Author of life,
Word made flesh,
Power of the Most High,
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 gifts of God for the people of God. 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.
O God, in this holy communion you have welcomed us into your presence, nourished us with words of mercy, and fed us at your table. Amid the cares of this life, strengthen us to love you with all our heart, serve our neighbors with a willing spirit, and honor the earth you have made; through Christ our 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 "The Church of Christ, in Every Age" #729

1 The church of Christ, in ev'ry age
beset by change, but Spirit-led,
must claim and test its heritage
and keep on rising from the dead.

2 Across the world, across the street,
the victims of injustice cry
for shelter and for bread to eat,
and never live before they die.

3 Then let the servant church arise,
a caring church that longs to be
a partner in Christ's sacrifice,
and clothed in Christ's humanity.

4 For he alone, whose blood was shed,
can cure the fever in our blood,
and teach us how to share our bread
and feed the starving multitude.

5 We have no mission but to serve
in full obedience to our Lord;
to care for all, without reserve,
and spread his liberating word.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

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BLESSED TO BLESS

SERVING TODAY:	**8:15 AM**	**10:45 AM**
ACOLYTE	Rachel Boggs	
LECTOR	Sue Boggs	Bob Errett
WORSHIP ASSISTANT	Kim Woodley	Tawnya Combs

ALTAR GUILD for October includes Kim Woodley and Tawnya Combs.

PRAYER CONCERNS:

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER this week Brandie, Suzy, Terry, Doug, Dennis, Barry, Marsha, Ray, Cindy, Sue, Hollie, Kevin, Lori, Deanne, Frank, Sam, Morrie, Michelle, Mike, Pastor Keith, Rita, Mark, Lilly, Jenny, and Shane.

THE ALTAR FLOWERS are given in memory of our Parents by William and Linda Griffith.

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 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.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE last Sunday was 87.

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

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.

JAVA TABLE will be open on the third Sunday of each month between services.

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!

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.

RUTH CIRCLE will meet **Wednesday**, October 14 at 7:00 PM in the church parlor. All women of the congregation are invited and welcome to join the fellowship.

HARVEST HOME SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18 The First Family will celebrate harvest Home on Sunday, October 18 at both worship services. Cornstalks and pumpkins will adorn the sanctuary, and you are asked to bring canned goods and food staples to the church.

Your gifts will help in our Food Pantry with providing food to the needy in our area. "Now thank we all our God!"

Harrold Zion Lutheran Church is having a Comedy Matinee show on Sunday, November 15th at 2:00 PM. The title of the show is **Laugh With the Lutherans,** and we would love to have our fellow Christians join us for a hilarious afternoon. Slapstick Comedy Production will provide two Standup comedians (PG rated). Cost is $40 per person, which covers admission and food. There will be wine and raffle baskets. Contact Harrold Zion 724 - 837-7327 for ticket purchase and information.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST:

Sunday – October 4 – Pentecost 19

Noisy Offering for Lutheran Indian Ministries

Angel Food Cakes for Meals on Wheels due

8:15 – Worship

9:30 – Sunday School

Continental Breakfast

10:45 – Worship

Monday – October 5

6:00 – Finance

Wednesday – October 7

12:00 – Food From the Heart

6:15 – Handbells

6:30 – Fellowship

Sunday – October 11 – Pentecost 20

8:15 – Worship

9:30 – Sunday School

Continental Breakfast

10:45 – Worship

"My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth."

Psalm 121:2

Trex Recycling Challenge

Plastic Patrol

Totals to date:

Oct-Dec. 2025	166 pounds
Jan-Mar. 2026	253 pounds
Apr – Jun 2026	252 pounds
July – Sept 2026	242.8 pounds (as of September 16, 2026)
Grand total to date:	913.8 POUNDS

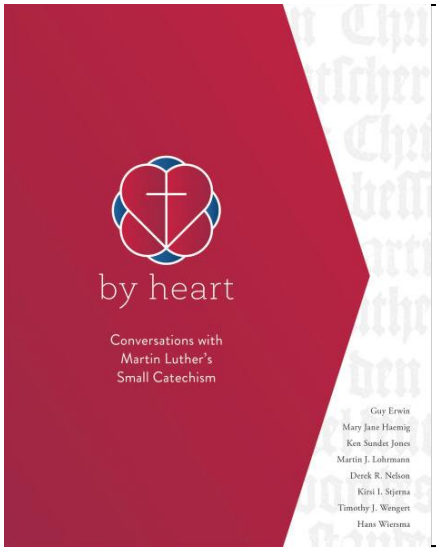
LET'S KEEP RECYCLING THAT PLASTIC!!!

**for each 250 pounds of plastic collected per quarter, one entry into a random drawing to win and choose a bench or one of 4 other prizes.*

OCTOBER NOISY OFFERING is FOR LUTHERAN INDIAN MINISTRIES

The Noisy Offerings in September and October will support Lutheran Indian Ministries (LIM). Based in Wisconsin, LIM's focus is outreach and Christian ministry to Indian and Alaskan Native Americans, many who carry feelings of anger, hopelessness, and/or trauma stemming from the ways their communities have historically been treated. LIM is faith-based aligning most closely with Lutheran theology and believe "the only true hope for healing is to deal with the effects of trauma in a biblical way." The goal is to bring Christ into people's lives as the best way to help address many old and new emotional and traumatic challenges that impact both individuals and their communities. To learn more please view a five-minute video at:

lutheranindianministries.org/about-lim-2025



Adult Study

Our Adult Study of Luther's Small Catechism, utilizing *by heart: Conversations with Martin Luther's Small Catechism,* continues on October 19th in the Fellowship Hall. You can join the conversation at either 1:30 pm or 6:00 pm. In October we will focus on Chapter 2, The Ten Commandments.
Books are available in the office. If you are able, we are requesting $15/book to help cover the cost.
Future dates are November 16th and December 14th.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS, NOVEMBER 1 AND 15

Brief congregational meetings will follow worship services on November 1 and 15 for the purpose of nominating and electing congregation council members.
On November 1, nominations will be received. Balloting and/or elections will follow two weeks later at the Sunday, November 15 meeting. In addition to elections, we will be bringing the constitution up for ratification. This follows our adoption of Constitutional changes on March 15, 2026.

Piano,
Pipes,

Peals &
Premieres

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR...

"Piano, Pipes, Peals, and Premieres"

Sunday, October 18, 2026 at 4:00 PM
First Evangelical Lutheran Church
Greensburg, Pennsylvania

This free program will be presented by Josh Beck (jazz piano), Marc Tourre (baritone), Kathleen Campbell (alto sax), the FELC Handbell Choir.....AND includes the world premiere of "No Height, No Depth" (in honor of Marvin Huls) by composer Jonathan P. White, AND the re-premiere of "Serenity Prayer" (in honor of FELC member Gwen Irwin's 100th birthday this November) by composer Mark Hayes. Both premieres will be performed by the FELC choir, guest singers, and accompanist Nancy Finke Sheehan.

Reception to follow.

SPREAD THE WORD!