

**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](mailto: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.

# THE NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 8, 2023  
8:15 AM & 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     **My Lord of Light** (English folk tune)

### 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.**

*One of the following or another confession is prayed.*

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 with these or similar words.*

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      “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.**

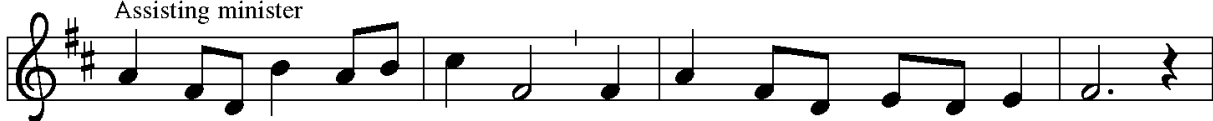
## Greeting

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.**

# Canticle of Praise

Assisting minister



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.



For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.

## 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**

<sup>1</sup>Let me sing for my beloved  
my love-song concerning his vineyard:

My beloved had a vineyard  
on a very fertile hill.

<sup>2</sup>He dug it and cleared it of stones,  
and planted it with choice vines;  
he built a watchtower in the midst of it,  
and hewed out a wine vat in it;  
he expected it to yield grapes,  
but it yielded wild grapes.

<sup>3</sup>And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem  
and people of Judah,  
judge between me  
and my vineyard.

<sup>4</sup>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?  
<sup>5</sup>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.  
<sup>6</sup>I will make it a waste;  
it shall not be pruned or hoed,  
and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns;  
I will also command the clouds  
that they rain no rain upon it.  
<sup>7</sup>For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts  
is the house of Israel,  
and the people of Judah  
are his pleasant planting;  
he expected justice,  
but saw bloodshed;  
righteousness,  
but heard a cry!

The Word of the Lord.

**R/Thanks be to God!**

### **Psalm 80:7-15**

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

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

## Second Reading

## Philippians 3:4b-14

[Paul writes:] <sup>4b</sup>If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: <sup>5</sup>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; <sup>6</sup>as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

<sup>7</sup>Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. <sup>8</sup>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 <sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup>if somehow, I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

<sup>12</sup>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. <sup>13</sup>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, <sup>14</sup>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.

**R/ Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the people:] <sup>33</sup>“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. <sup>34</sup>When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. <sup>35</sup>But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. <sup>36</sup>Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. <sup>37</sup>Finally he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ <sup>38</sup>But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’ <sup>39</sup>So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. <sup>40</sup>Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” <sup>41</sup>They said to him, “He 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.”

<sup>42</sup>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’?”

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

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

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

## **Youth Sermon (10:45 AM)**

### **Sermon**

**HYMN                      “My Lord of Light”                      #832**

**1 My Lord of light who made the worlds,  
in wisdom you have spoken;  
but those who heard your wise commands  
your holy law have broken.**

**2 My Lord of love who knew no sin,  
a sinner's death enduring:  
for us you wore a crown of thorns,  
a crown of life securing.**

**3 My Lord of life who came in fire  
when Christ was high ascended:  
your burning love is now released,  
our days of fear are ended.**

**4 My Lord of lords, one Trinity,  
to your pure name be given  
all glory now and evermore,  
all praise in earth and heaven.**

## 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.*

Trusting in the transformative power of God's loving Spirit, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

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

Gracious God, into your hands we commend all for whom we pray,  
trusting in your unending love and amazing grace; through Jesus Christ,  
our Savior.

**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**

Offering

Offertory

**8:15 Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart**

(arr. Timothy Shaw)

10:45 He Hideth My Soul (arr. John Carter)

A wonderful Savior is Jesus my Lord, a wonderful Savior to me.  
He hideth my soul in the cleft of the rock, where rivers of pleasure  
I see.

He hideth my soul in the cleft of the rock, that shadows a dry,  
thirsty land.

He hideth my life in the depths of his love, and covers me there  
with his hand.

A wonderful Savior is Jesus my Lord, he taketh my burden away.  
He holdeth me up and I shall not be moved. He giveth me strength  
for each day.

With numberless blessings each moment he crowns, and filled with  
his fullness divine. I sing in my rapture, "O glory to God for such a  
Redeemer as mine."

Offertory Response:

Create in Me a Clean Heart  
*Offering Song*

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right  
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take  
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of  
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923  
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## Offertory Prayer (in unison)

*After the table is set, the assisting minister may lead one of the following or a similar prayer.*

Let us pray.

**Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## Great Thanksgiving

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.**

## PREFACE

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

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

## Thanksgiving at the Table

*The presiding minister continues, using one of the following or another appropriate form.*

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.  
You are most holy,  
and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,  
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish  
but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world  
to fulfill for us your holy will  
and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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.

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

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

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command,  
his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and  
ascension,

and the promise of his coming again,  
we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty,  
not as we ought but as we are able;  
we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving  
and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants,  
and these your own gifts of bread and wine,  
so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ  
may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace,  
and, receiving the forgiveness of sin,  
may be formed to live as your holy people  
and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
be all honor and glory in your holy church, 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.**

*The presiding minister may address the assembly in these or similar words.*

The gifts of God for the people of God. Come to the banquet for all is now ready.

## **COMMUNION**

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.*
- *Cups can be placed in the empty 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.*

*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.

God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus 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      “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***

## **Dismissal**

**Go in peace. Share the good news.  
Thanks be to God.**

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# **BLESSED TO BLESS**

## **SERVING TODAY:**

**ACOLYTES** are Noah Boggs and Tessa Miller.

**LECTORS** are Kim Nicassio and Malcolm Sias.

**WORSHIP ASSISTANT** is Rebecca Brunetta.

**OCTOBER ALTAR GUILD:** Kim Woodley and Sherry Menz.

**OCTOBER 8:15 USHERS:** John Anderson, Becky Blank, Sue Boggs, and Carolyn Hanzel.

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

**“As Servants of Jesus Christ, we strive to impact  
our families, neighbors and the world by sharing  
our faith,  
empowered by God’s Grace”**

**Developed by Church Council  
October 2016**

## PRAYER CONCERNS:

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER** this week Brandie, Suzy, Lois, Terry, Joyce, Cullen, Doug, Gavin, Felicia, Kacie, Dennis, Stephen, Connie, Kim, Cindy, Vivian, Jay, Paula, Christina, Joseph, Jim, Katie, Lisa, Judy, Jeff, Teresa, Pat, Austin, Katie, Baby Jack, Karen, Phil and Dean.

**THE ALTAR FLOWERS** are given in memory of the Rev. Dr. and Mrs. William F. Pfeifer, Jr. by their children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

**THE CHANCEL FLOWERS** are given in memory of Albert and Alberta Druschel, John and William Druschel, 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 Excelsa 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.

*“Be strong and of good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them, for the Lord your God doth go with thee. He will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.”*

*Deuteronomy 31:6*

# **IMPORTANT INFORMATION:**

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

**JAVA TABLE** will be open in the Fellowship Hall today between worship services. Fair Trade coffees, teas and chocolates will be available for purchase.

**CHOIR REHEARSAL** 10:00 AM today.

**NOISY OFFERING** last Sunday was \$229.

**CHRISTIAN ED** Tuesday, 6:30 PM.

**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).

**HANDBELLS** Thursday, 6:15 – 7:00 PM.

**BIBLE & BOOK DISTRIBUTION** at both services October 22.

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

**WORSHIP ATTENDANCE** last Sunday morning was 89.

## **HABITAT PROJECT**

The Habitat Project is scheduled for Saturday October 28<sup>th</sup>. More details to follow.

## **Installation of Pastor Larry Kemp**

Sunday, October 8: 4:30 PM

Trinity Lutheran Church of Franklin Park (Wexford)

2500 Brandt School Road

Wexford, PA 15090



## HARVEST HOME SUNDAY OCTOBER 22

The First Family will celebrate Harvest Home on Sunday, October 22 at both worship services. Cornstalks and pumpkins will adorn the sanctuary and you are asked to bring canned goods and food staples to church.

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

### **Stewardship Snippets**

*“Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom.”*

– **Matthew 21:43**

Ouch! Jesus’ words point to the importance of bearing fruit. God promises an abundant harvest with more than enough to share, but we must do our part to cultivate, nurture, and bring to fullness all the bountiful gifts of God, both in our own lives and in the Body of Christ.



# Reformation Sunday Fellowship Luncheon October 29

Immediately following the 10:45 AM service, we will gather in the Fellowship Hall for a lunch. The menu includes:

- Slider Sandwiches
- Chips
- Apple Dumplings
- Ice Cream
- Lemonade/Coffee/Tea

Use the reservation form below for the lunch or you may call the church office. Reservations are requested by **October 22, 2023**.

All are welcome! Make sure to mark your calendar and come celebrate the Reformation!

\*\*\*\*\*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Number Attending: \_\_\_\_\_

*A donation to defray expenses may be given if you so desire.*