### 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.

## THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

#### May 25, 2025 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

#### **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"Shall We Gather at the River"#423

1 Shall we gather at the river, where bright angel feet have trod, with its crystal tide forever flowing by the throne of God?

Refrain

Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river; gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God.

2 On the margin of the river, washing up its silver spray, we will walk and worship ever, all the happy golden day. *Refrain* 

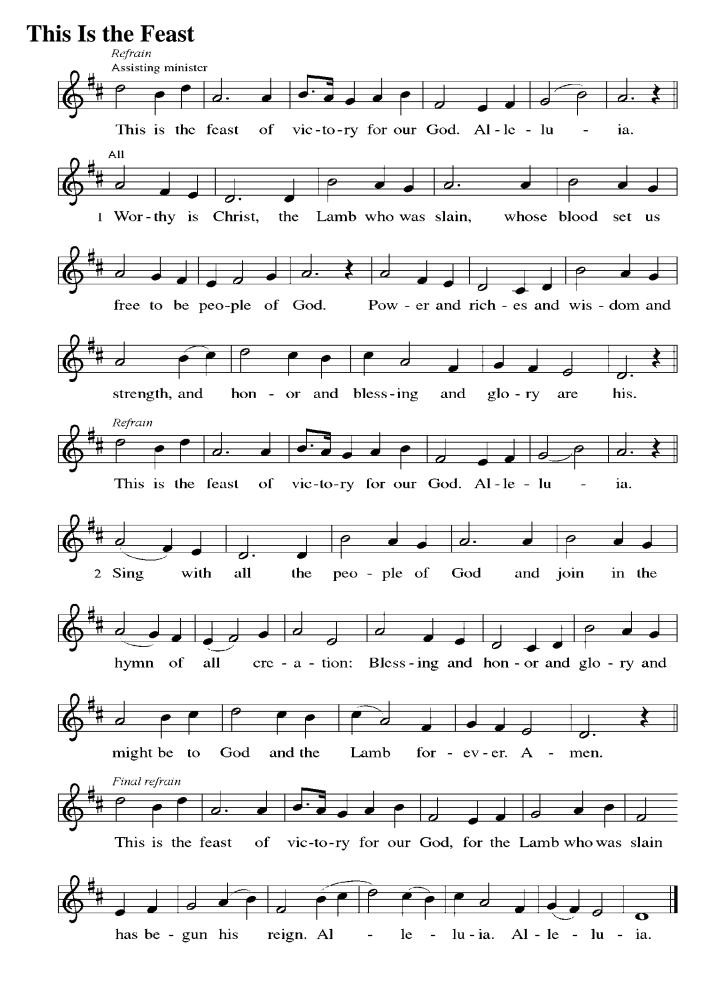
#### Refrain

Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river; gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God.

- 3 Ere we reach the shining river, lay we ev'ry burden down; grace our spirits will deliver, and provide a robe and crown. *Refrain*
- 4 Soon we'll reach the shining river, soon our pilgrimage will cease; soon our happy hearts will quiver with the melody of peace. *Refrain*

#### 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 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.

Bountiful God, you gather your people into your realm, and you promise us food from your tree of life. Nourish us with your word, that empowered by your Spirit we may love one another and the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

The assembly is seated.

#### WORD

#### First Reading Acts 16:9-15

<sup>9</sup> During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." <sup>10</sup> When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them.

<sup>11</sup> We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, <sup>12</sup> and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. <sup>13</sup> On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. <sup>14</sup> A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple

cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. <sup>15</sup> When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home." And she prevailed upon us.

The Word of the Lord.

#### **R/Thanks be to God!**

### Psalm 67

(Read Responsively)

<sup>1</sup> May God be merciful to <sup>|</sup> us and bless us; may the light of God's face <sup>|</sup> shine upon us.

- <sup>2</sup> Let your way be known | upon earth, your saving health a- | mong all nations.
- <sup>3</sup> Let the peoples praise | you, O God; let all the | peoples praise you.
- <sup>4</sup>Let the nations be glad and <sup>1</sup> sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the

#### na- | tions on earth.

- <sup>5</sup> Let the peoples | praise you, O God; let all the | peoples praise you.
- <sup>6</sup> The earth has brought | forth its increase; God, our own | God, has blessed us.
- <sup>7</sup> May God | give us blessing, and may all the ends of the earth | stand in awe.

Second Reading

### Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5

<sup>10</sup> And in the spirit [one of the angels] carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God.

<sup>22</sup> I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. <sup>23</sup> And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. <sup>24</sup> The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. <sup>25</sup> Its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night

**[**7]

there. <sup>26</sup> People will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. <sup>27</sup> But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practices abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

<sup>22:1</sup> Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb <sup>2</sup> through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. <sup>3</sup> Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; <sup>4</sup> they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. <sup>5</sup> And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

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

#### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*Alleluia.* Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. *Alleluia.* 

Gospel John 14:23-29

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

<sup>23</sup> Jesus answered [Judas (not Iscariot),] "Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. <sup>24</sup> Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me.

<sup>25</sup> "I have said these things to you while I am still with you. <sup>26</sup> But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to

you. <sup>27</sup> Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. <sup>28</sup> You heard me say to you, 'I am going away, and I am coming to you.' If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. <sup>29</sup> And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe."

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

## **Youth Sermon**

## Sermon

Hy	nn "When Peace like a River" #785
1	When peace like a river attendeth my way, when sorrows like sea billows roll, whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.
Rej	<i>cain</i> It is well (it is well) with my soul, (with my soul,) it is well, it is well with my soul.
2	Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come, let this blest assurance control, that Christ has regarded my helpless estate, and has shed his own blood for my soul. <i>Refrain</i>
3	He livesoh, the bliss of this glorious thought; my sin, not in part, but the whole, is nailed to his cross and I bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! <i>Refrain</i>
	( 9 )

4 Lord, hasten the day when our faith shall be sight, the clouds be rolled back as a scroll, the trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend; even so it is well with my soul. *Refrain* 

Refrain

It is well (it is well) with my soul, (with my soul,) it is well, it is well with my soul.

Nicene Creed: With the whole church we confess our faith.

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate: he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son,\* who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. 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.

God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

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

*The presiding minister concludes the prayers with these words.* We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen 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

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:

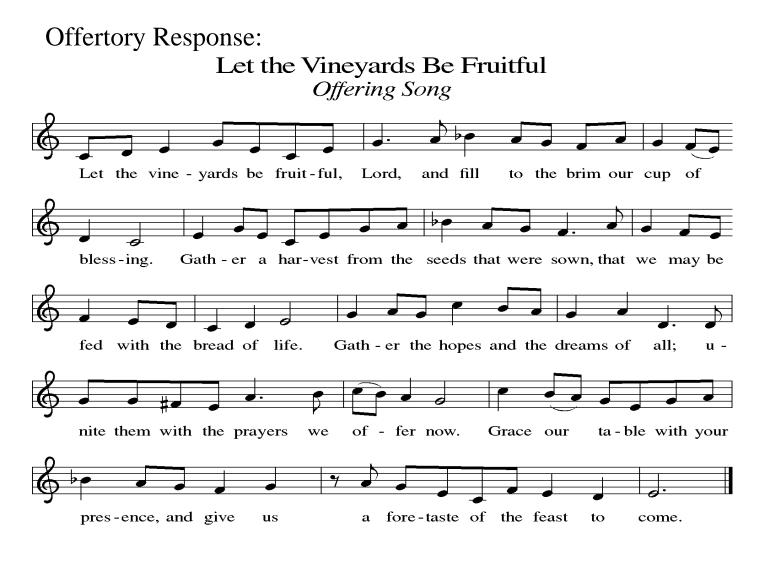
Checks can also be mailed to: First Lutheran, 246 S. Main Street, Greensburg, PA 15601.



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



Offertory Prayer (in unison)

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through 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,

for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ,

the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin;

who in dying has destroyed death,

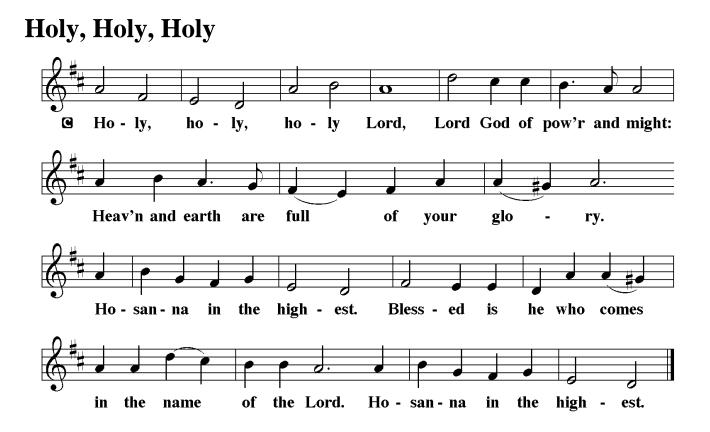
and in rising has brought us to eternal life.

And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection,

with earth and sea and all their creatures,

and with angels and archangels, cherubim, and seraphim,

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



## Thanksgiving at the Table

#### The presiding minister continues, using one of the following.

You are indeed holy, O God, the fountain of all holiness; you bring light from darkness, life from death, speech from silence. We worship you for our lives and for the world you give us. We thank you for the new world to come and for the love that will rule all in all. We praise you for the grace shown to Israel, your chosen, the people of your promise: the rescue from Egypt, the gift of the promised land, the memory of the fathers, the homecoming from exile, and the prophets' words that will not be in vain. In all this we bless you for your onlybegotten Son, who fulfilled and will fulfill all your promises.

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.** 

Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup we remember the incarnation of your Son: his human birth and the covenant he made with us. We remember the sacrifice of his life: his eating with outcasts and sinners, and his acceptance of death. But chiefly we remember his rising from the tomb, his ascension to the seat of power, and his sending of the holy and life-giving Spirit. We cry out for the resurrection of our lives when Christ will come again in beauty and power to share with us the great and promised feast. **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.** 

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, that we and all who share in this bread and cup may be united in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, may enter the fullness of the kingdom of heaven, and may receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

#### Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, 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.

Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. **Amen.** 

## SENDING

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

#### Hymn "O Beautiful for Spacious Skies" #888

- O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain, for purple mountain majesties above the fruited plain: America! America! God shed his grace on thee, and crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea.
- 2 O beautiful for heroes proved in liberating strife, who more than self their country loved, and mercy more than life: America! America! May God thy gold refine, till all success be nobleness, and ev'ry gain divine.
- 3 O beautiful for patriot dream that sees beyond the years thine alabaster cities gleam, undimmed by human tears: America! America! God mend thine ev'ry flaw, confirm thy soul in self-control, thy liberty in law.

#### Dismissal Go in peace. Christ is with you. **Thanks be to God.**

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# **BLESSED TO BLESS**

<b>SERVING TODAY:</b>	8:15 AM	10:45 AM			
ACOLYTE	Noah Boggs				
LECTORS	Kevin Reilly	Megan Zobb			
WORSHIP ASSISTANT	Kim Woodley	Tawnya Combs			
ALTAR GUILD for May includes Kim Woodley and Ann Copper.					

**ALTAR GUILD** for June includes Dianna Marusko, Carolyn Hanzel, and Sue Ross.

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.

## **PRAYER CONCERNS:**

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER** this week Brandie, Suzy, Terry, Cullen, Doug, Gavin, Dennis, Cooper, Carolyn, Dave, Jean, John, Cathy, Mark, Paul, Jean, Kathy, Matthew, Jessie, Willis, Alexander, Frank, Larry, Craig, Charles, Allan, Jan, and Luke.

**THE ALTAR FLOWERS** are given to in memory of and honor of all who have served our country in both wartime and peacetime by the Barnhart's.

**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.

"Taste and see that the Lord is good; happy are they that take refuge in him" Psalm 34:8

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION:**

#### **WORSHIP ATTENDANCE** last Sunday morning was 59.

**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.

**NOISY OFFERING** for June will be donated to Street Outreach organized by Seton Hill University's School of Physical Therapy. The group hopes to meet the needs of and provide medical care to individuals who are unhoused or experiencing rough sleeping. Currently they only consist of physical therapists and other non-clinicians, but as they assess the needs of the community, they plan to reach out to other medical providers to ask them to participate as well. They are modeling themselves after Street Medicine, which was founded in Pittsburgh over 30 years ago. It is now an international community of providers, but its roots started in Western PA, and we would like to expand the outreach in our region beyond Pittsburgh. If you are interested in learning more about Street Medicine, you can check out their website: https://www.streetmedicine.org/ .

**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!

## **Stewardship Snippets**

Acts 16:9 – "And a vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing there, urging him, and saying, 'Come over to Macedonia and help us.'" God does all the saving of the Macedonians, but He does it through the ministry of St. Paul who was called to go and help them out. How is the Lord calling you to use your gifts for His work?

## THIS WEEK AT FIRST:

#### <u>Sunday – May 25 – Sixth Sunday of Easter</u>

8:15 – Worship
10:45 – Worship
Monday – May 26
OFFICE CLOSED in observance of Memorial Day
Tuesday – May 27
10:00 – Newsletter Folding
Wednesday – May 28
12:00 – Food From the Heart
6:30 – Property meeting
Sunday – June 1 – Seventh Sunday of Easter
9:30 – Worship

#### FROM THE CHRISTIAN OUTREACH TEAM:

We are trying to determine the level of interest and availability of people for a possible Habitat for Humanity project on Saturday, July 19, 2025. There are no specifics yet. If you are interested, please sign the line below and send it to the Church Office or drop it in on the collection plate.

#### Name:\_\_\_\_\_

is interested in helping with the Habitat for Humanity Project on July 19, 2025.

We trying something are new! Have you ever thought it would be nice to worship outside in the park? Well, we have just the thing! We will be having Saturday Worship Saturday park In the Park worship outside in the park on the following Saturdays at 5:00pm. June  $7^{th}$  &  $21^{st}$ , July  $12^{th}$  &  $26^{th}$ , and August 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. This is casual worship in the park (or the fellowship hall if necessary). Please bring your favorite camp chair and dress for the outdoors. Hope to see you there!

**SUMMER BIBLE STUDY:** Zion's Women of the ELCA invite you to join us in a three-part Bible Study on Relationships from Gather magazine June 18, July 16, and August 20. Fellowship at 5:30 PM (Light refreshments will be provided.) and Bible Study from 6—7 PM. We will meet in the Social Hall. Please join us at Zion's Lutheran Church and enter the church through the side door on Second Avenue. There is only one small step which can be accessed in a wheelchair.

#### HONOR FATHER'S WITH THE GIFT OF A FRUIT-TREE SEEDLING !



Once again for Father's Day (June 15th) members of the Christian Outreach Team suggest a fitting way to honor and remember your/any father. Certain fruit trees - such as mango, orange and guava - are known to thrive in the driest of conditions, even drought. These low-maintenance

trees represent an investment in the community that can span generations, protecting the soil from erosion and providing vitaminpacked fruit to children and adults alike. Honor your father(s) with a gift to ELCA Good Gifts in the amount of \$10.00. Your gift will provide a fruit-tree seedling for a community in need. A member of the Christian Outreach Team will be in the Education Building after worship service on Sunday, June 1st and Sunday, June 8th for you to make your gifts. A team member will also be available after Worship in the Park on Saturday, June 7th. You may also make your gifts during the week through the church office. Write a check payable to First Lutheran Church (or you can give cash). Please write Father's Day on the memo line and place it in an envelope and write Father's Day on the outside of the envelope.

Please include the following information: Name(s) of father(s) you are honoring/remembering:

Given by:\_

#### FIRST LUTHERAN AND ZION'S LUTHERAN VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL June 23-26 9:30 AM – 12PM PreK – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Held at First Lutheran Church 246 South Main Street, Greensburg, PA 15601 REGISTRATION AND EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Child's Name		Male	_ Female			
Last School Grade Completed	Child's Birthdate					
Parent/Guardian Name						
Street Address						
City	State	Zip				
Home phone	Parent/Guardian ce					
Parent/Guardian email address						
Primary Emergency Contact:						
Name						
Relationship to child						
Phone number						
Food allergies						
Any other allergies, medical conditions, or medication that we should know about						
T-shirt size						
Signed	Date	<u> </u>				
By initialing below, you are allowing First Lutheran and Zion's Lutheran Churches to take photos of your child or loved one. These photos may be included on our church websites and/or social media. Guardian Initials						