

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 THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

June 9, 2024

9:30 AM

THE WORSHIP SERVICE

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

GATHERING

Prelude

SO, ART THOU TO ME

(Text John Tauler, 1300-1361; Music K. Lee Scott, b. 1950-)

Marc Turre, baritone

As the bridegroom to his chosen, as the king unto his realm, as the keep unto the castle, as the pilot to the helm, so art thou, Lord, to me.

As the fountain in the garden, as the candle in the dark, as the treasure in the coffer, as the manna in the ark, so art thou, Lord, to me.

As the music at the banquet, as the stamp unto the seal, as the medicine to the fainting, as the wine cup at the meal, so art thou, Lord, to me.

As the ruby in the setting, as the honey in the comb, as the light within the lantern, as the father in the home. As the sunshine in the heavens, as the image in the glass, as the fruit unto the fig tree, as the dew upon the grass, so art thou, Lord, to me.

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.**

- 1 **You servants of God, your Master proclaim,
and publish abroad his wonderful name;
the name, all-victorious, of Jesus extol;
his kingdom is glorious and rules over all!**

- 2 **Ascended on high, almighty to save,
yet still he is nigh, his presence we have.
The great congregation his triumph shall sing,
ascribing salvation to Jesus, our king!**

- 3 **Salvation to God who sits on the throne!
Let all cry aloud and honor the Son.
The praises of Jesus the angels proclaim,
fall down on their faces, and worship the Lamb.**

- 4 **Then let us adore and give him his right,
all glory and pow'r and wisdom and might,
all honor and blessing, with angels above,
and thanks never ceasing, and infinite love!**

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

Refrain

Assisting minister



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.

All



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

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.

All-powerful God, in Jesus Christ you turned death into life and defeat into victory. Increase our faith and trust in him, that we may triumph over all evil in the strength of the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen

The assembly is seated.

WORD

First Reading

Genesis 3:8-15

⁸[Adam and Eve] heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.⁹But the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, “Where are you?”¹⁰He said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.”¹¹He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?”¹²The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.”¹³Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent tricked me, and I ate.”¹⁴The LORD God said to the serpent,

“Because you have done this,
cursed are you among all animals
and among all wild creatures;
upon your belly you shall go,
and dust you shall eat
all the days of your life.

¹⁵I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and hers;
he will strike your head,
and you will strike his heel.”

The Word of the Lord.

R/Thanks be to God!

Psalm 130

(Read Responsively)

¹Out [|] of the depths

I cry to [|] you, O LORD;

²**O LORD, [|] hear my voice!**

Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my [|] supplication.

³If you were to keep watch [|] over sins,

O LORD, [|] who could stand?

⁴**Yet with you [|] is forgiveness,**

in order that you [|] may be feared.

⁵I wait for you, O LORD; [|] my soul waits;

in your word [|] is my hope.

⁶**My soul waits for the Lord more than those who keep
watch [|] for the morning,**

more than those who keep watch [|] for the morning.

⁷O Israel, wait for the LORD, for with the LORD there is [|] steadfast
love;

with the LORD there is plen- [|] teous redemption.

⁸**For the LORD shall [|] redeem Israel**

from [|] all their sins.

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 4:13—5:1

¹³Just as we have the same spirit of faith that is in accordance with
scripture—“I believed, and so I spoke”—we also believe, and so we
speak, ¹⁴because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise
us also with Jesus, and will bring us with you into his presence. ¹⁵Yes,
everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and more
people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

¹⁶So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, ¹⁸because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.

^{5:1}For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

The Word of the Lord.

R/Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia.* The ruler of this world will be driven out. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all people to myself. *Alleluia

Gospel

Mark 3:20-35

P: The Holy Gospel according to Mark the third chapter.

R/ Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus went home;] ²⁰and the crowd came together again, so that [Jesus and the disciples] could not even eat. ²¹When his family heard it, they went out to restrain him, for people were saying, “He has gone out of his mind.” ²²And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, “He has Beelzebul, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons.” ²³And he called them to him, and spoke to them in parables, “How can Satan cast out Satan? ²⁴If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. ²⁵And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. ²⁶And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but his end has come. ²⁷But no one can enter a strong man’s house and plunder his property without first tying up the strong man; then indeed the house can be plundered.

²⁸“Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins and whatever

blasphemies they utter; ²⁹but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin”—³⁰for they had said, “He has an unclean spirit.”

³¹Then his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. ³²A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, “Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you.” ³³And he replied, “Who are my mother and my brothers?” ³⁴And looking at those who sat around him, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! ³⁵Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.”

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

Youth Sermon

Sermon

Hymn

“Lead Me, Guide Me”

#768

Refrain

**Lead me, guide me, along the way;
For if you lead me, I cannot stray.
Lord, let me walk each day with thee.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.**

**1 I am weak and I need thy strength and pow’r
To help me over my weakest hour.
Help me through the darkness thy face to see.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me. *Refrain***

**2 Help me tread in the paths of righteousness,
Be my aid when Satan and sin oppress.
I am putting all my trust in thee.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me. *Refrain***

**3 I am lost if you take your hand from me,
I am blind without thy light to see.
Lord, just always let me thy servant be.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me. *Refrain***

Refrain

**Lead me, guide me, along the way;
For if you lead me, I cannot stray.
Lord, let me walk each day with thee.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.**

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.

We come before the triune God to pray for our communities, ourselves, and our world.

At each petition,
Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

The presiding minister concludes the prayers with these words.
Receive our prayers, O God, and come quickly to our aid, through the power of the Spirit and the love of Jesus Christ.
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

"Be Ye Glad" by Michael Blanchard
Marc Toure, baritone

**In these days of confused situations
In this night of a restless remorse
When the heart and the soul of a nation
Lay wounded and cold as a corpse
From the grave of the innocent Adam
Comes a song bringing joy to the sad
Oh, your cry has been heard and the ransom
Has been paid up in full, be ye glad
Oh, be ye glad
Oh, be ye glad
Every debt that you've ever had
Has been paid up in full by the grace of the Lord
Be ye glad, be ye glad, be ye glad
Now from your dungeon a rumor is stirring
Though you've heard it again and again
Now but this time your cell keys are turning
And outside there are faces of friends**

**Though your body lay weary from wasting
And your eyes show show the sorrow they had
Oh the love that your heart is now tasting
Has opened the gate be ye glad
Oh, be ye glad
Oh, be ye glad
Every debt that you ever had
Has been paid up in full
By the grace of the Lord
Be ye glad, be ye glad, be ye glad
So be like lights
On the rim of the water
Giving hope in a storm sea of night
Be a refuge amidst the slaughter
Of these fugitives in their flight
For you are timeless and part of a puzzle
You are winsome and young as a lad
And there is no disease or no struggle
That can pull you from God
That can pull you from God
Oh, be ye glad
Oh, be ye glad
Every debt that you ever had
Has been paid up in full
By the grace of the Lord
Be ye glad, be ye glad, be ye glad
Oh, be ye glad
Oh, be ye glad
Be ye glad, be ye glad, be ye glad**

Offertory Response:

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful *Offering Song*



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be
fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -
nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

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.

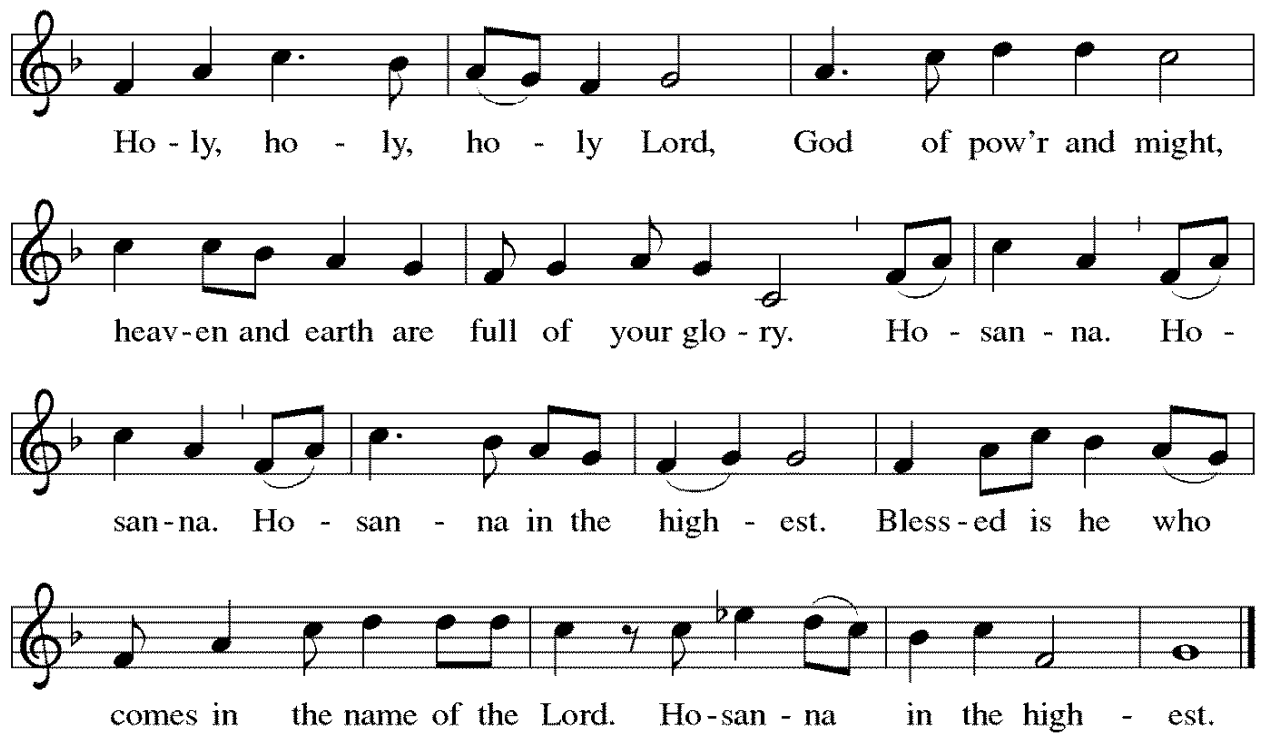
We lift them to the Lord.

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:

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.

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 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.**

- 1 “Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own.
In my love’s baptismal river
I have made you mine forever.
Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.”**

- 2 “Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Here you heard my dear Son’s story,
here you touched him, saw his glory.
Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.”**

- 3 “Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me.
Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.
Here my Spirit’s power filled you,
here my tender comfort stilled you.
Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful, and free.”**

Dismissal

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

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BLESSED TO BLESS

SERVING TODAY:

ACOLYTE is Noah Boggs.

LECTOR is Shirley Huls.

WORSHIP ASSISTANT is Carolyn Hanzel.

SERVING IN JUNE:

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

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, Terry, Joyce, Cullen, Doug, Gavin, Dennis, Mike and his family, Julie and her family, Willis, Connie, Caroline, Mark, Larry, Christopher, Nikkell, Dean, Bobbie, Debbie, Judy, Sandy, Ted, Jeff, Jan, Betty, Lisa, Karen, Sharyn, Harry, Wendy, Sherrie and the family of Karen Gable.

THE ALTAR FLOWERS are given in honor of our parents by Bobbie and Sam Laciak.

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.

Stewardship Snippets

Mark 3:21 – When his [Jesus'] family heard it, they went out to restrain him, for people were saying, 'He has gone out of his mind.'

Do people always understand your passionate decision to follow Jesus -- to turn your back on the world's hatred, greed, lust, warmongering? The holy path can seem downright crazy to others, but the path of steward/discipleship leads us into God's Realm.

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above...."

James 1:17

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

Thanks to Marc Toure for his musical assistance today.

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE Word and Sacrament at 9:30 AM.
No Sunday School.

NOISY OFFERING last Sunday was \$140. Thank you for your generosity.

ATTENDANCE last Sunday was 83.

COUNCIL Tuesday, 6:00 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).

SYNOD ASSEMBLY June 14 and 15.

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.

SUMMER SOLOISTS:

June 16	Sam Specht-Burns, violin
June 23	Rob Lynch, organist
June 30	Heather Nabuda, soprano
July 14	Michele Boulet, flute
July 21	Josh Beck, jazz piano
August 11	Crystal Stryker & Rick Carson, vocal duet



HONOR FATHER'S....SAVE OTHERS!

Once again for Father's Day (June 16th) members of the Christian Outreach Team suggest a fitting way to honor and remember your/any father.

Around our planet, our brothers and sisters may not know of America's Father's Day but fathers they know may very well be experiencing war, hunger, poverty, calamities of weather or any combination of these.

Honor your father(s) with a gift to Lutheran Disaster Relief in amounts of \$15.00 or more if you can. Lutheran Disaster Relief has a long-established history for helping where it is needed most.

A member of the Christian Outreach Team will be in the education building foyer after the worship services on Sunday, June 9th, and June 16th for you to make your gifts. You may also make gifts during the week through the church office.

Write out a check payable to First Lutheran Church (or you can give cash). You can 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 of father(s) you are honoring/remembering:

Given by
