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.

TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 16, 2026
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

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 "Healer of Our Every Ill" #612

Refrain

Healer of our ev'ry ill,
light of each tomorrow,
give us peace beyond our fear,
and hope beyond our sorrow.

1 **You who know our fears and sadness,**
grace us with your peace and gladness;
Spirit of all comfort, fill our hearts. ***Refrain***

2 **In the pain and joy beholding**
how your grace is still unfolding,
give us all your vision, God of love. ***Refrain***

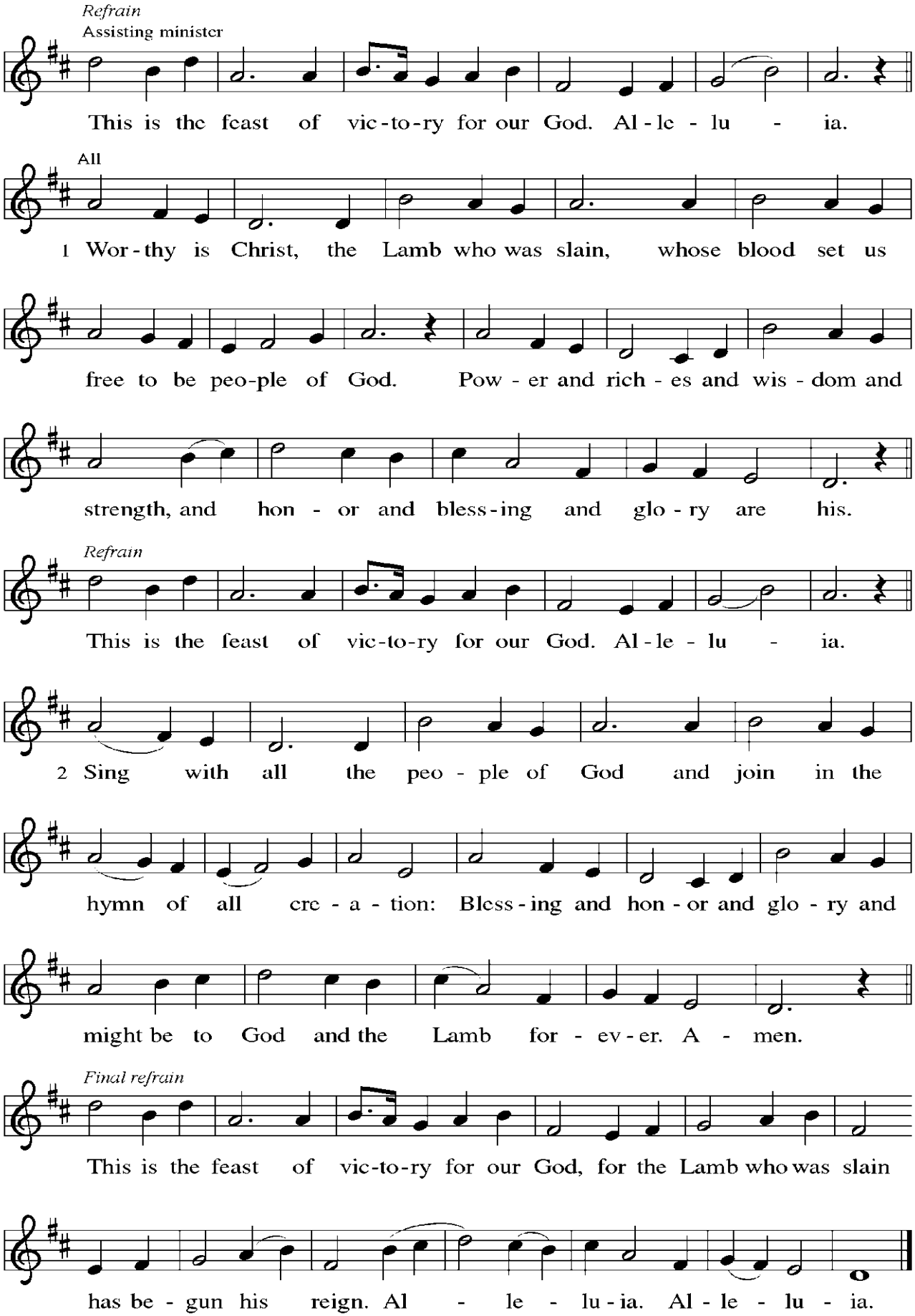
3 **Give us strength to love each other,**
ev'ry sister, ev'ry brother;
Spirit of all kindness, be our guide. ***Refrain***

4 **You who know each thought and feeling,**
teach us all your way of healing;
Spirit of compassion, fill each heart. ***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.

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.

God of all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

The assembly is seated.

WORD

First Reading **Isaiah 56:1, 6-8**

[1] Thus says the Lord:
Maintain justice, and do what is right,
for soon my salvation will come,
and my deliverance be revealed.

[6] And the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord,
to minister to the Lord, to love the name of the Lord,
and to be the Lord's servants,
all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it,
and hold fast my covenant—
[7] these I will bring to my holy mountain,
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;
their burnt offerings and their sacrifices
will be accepted on my altar;
for my house shall be called a house of prayer
for all peoples.
[8] Thus says the Lord God,
who gathers the outcasts of Israel,
I will gather others to them
besides those already gathered.

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

Psalm 67 *(Read Responsively)*

[1] May God be merciful to | us and bless us;
may the light of God's face | shine upon us.
[2] **Let your way be known | upon earth,**
your saving health a- | mong all nations.
[3] Let the peoples praise | you, O God;
let all the | peoples praise you.
[4] **Let the nations be glad and | sing for joy,**
for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the na- | tions on earth.
[5] Let the peoples praise | you, O God;
let all the | peoples praise you.
[6] **The earth has brought | forth its increase;**
God, our own | God, has blessed us.
[7] May God | give us blessing,
and may all the ends of the earth | stand in awe.

Second Reading **Romans 11:1-2A, 29-32**

[Paul writes:] [1] I ask, then, has God rejected the chosen people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. [2a] God has not rejected the people whom ages ago God chose.

[29] For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. [30] Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, [31] so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. [32] For God has imprisoned all in disobedience in order to be merciful to all.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia. **Jesus preached the good news of the kingdom and cured every sickness among the people.** ***Alleluia.***

Gospel **Matthew 15: 10-28**

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the fifteenth chapter.

R/ Glory to you, O Lord.

[10 [Jesus] called the crowd to him and said to them, “Listen and
understand:11 it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but
it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles.” 12 Then the disciples
approached and said to him, “Do you know that the Pharisees took
offense when they heard what you said?” 13 Jesus answered, “Every plant
that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. 14 Let them
alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides
another, both will fall into a pit.” 15 But Peter said to him, “Explain this
parable to us.” 16 Then Jesus said, “Are you also still without
understanding? 17 Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth
enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? 18 But what comes out of
the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. 19 For out of
the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false
witness, slander. 20 These are what defile a person, but to eat with
unwashed hands does not defile.”

] 21 Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and
Sidon. 22 Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and
started shouting, “Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter
is tormented by a demon.” 23 But he did not answer her at all. And his
disciples came and urged him, saying, “Send her away, for she keeps
shouting after us.” 24 Jesus answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of
the house of Israel.” 25 But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord,
help me.” 26 Jesus answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s food and
throw it to the dogs.” 27 She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the
crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” 28 Then Jesus answered her,
“Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And
her daughter was healed instantly.

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

Youth Sermon

Sermon

Hymn "Thy Holy Wings" #613

1 Thy holy wings, O Savior,
spread gently over me,
and let me rest securely
through good and ill in thee.
Oh, be my strength and portion,
my rock and hiding place,
and let my ev'ry moment
be lived within thy grace.

2 Oh, let me nestle near thee,
within thy downy breast
where I will find sweet comfort
and peace within thy nest.
Oh, close thy wings around me
and keep me safely there,
for I am but a newborn
and need thy tender care.

3 Oh, wash me in the waters
of Noah's cleansing flood.
Give me a willing spirit,
a heart both clean and good.
Oh, take into thy keeping
thy children great and small,
and while we sweetly slumber,
enfold us one and all.

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.

With bold trust in God's unfailing provision, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

At each petition,
Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

The presiding minister concludes the prayers with these words.
Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised. All this we ask in the name of your Son, 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.

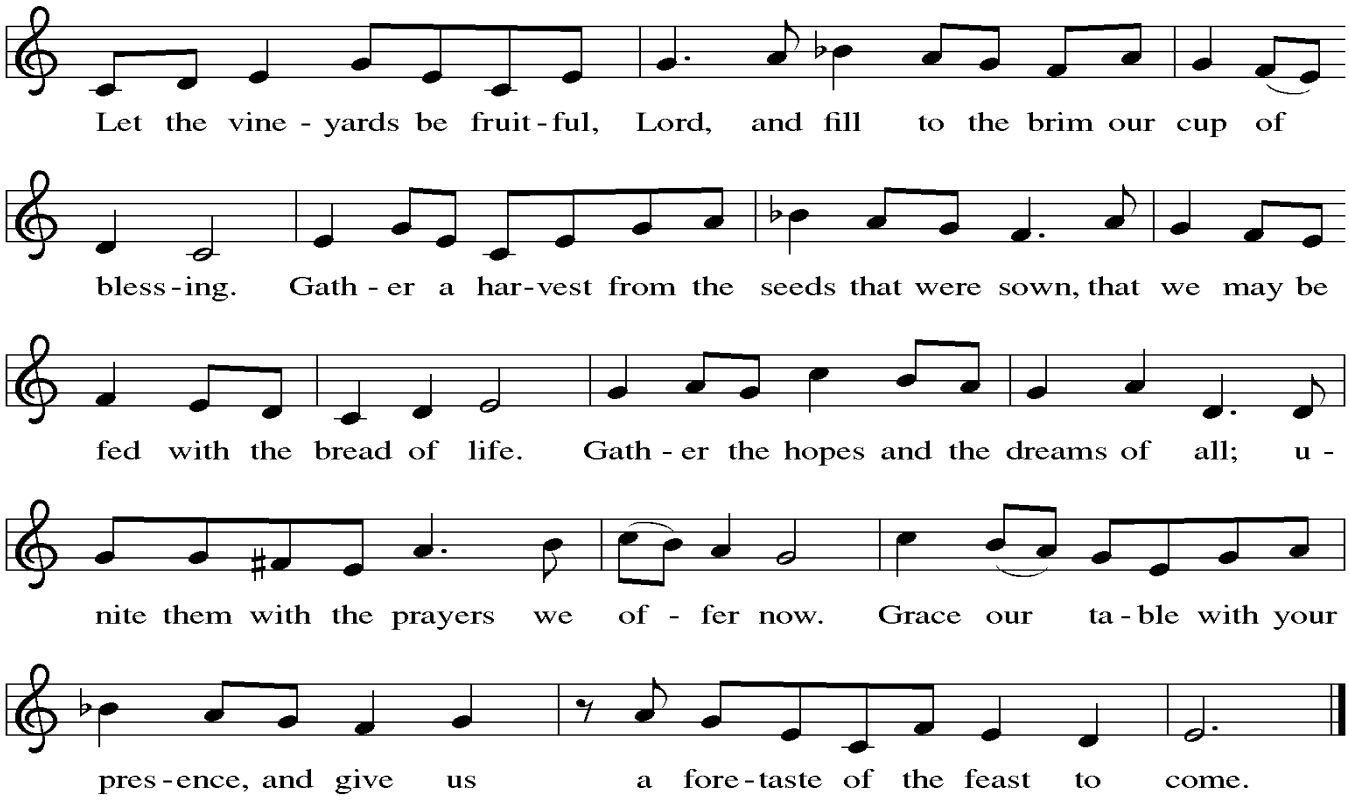
(Children, please bring your offering to the front of the church and place it in the "Thank You Jesus" Jar.)

Offertory "Thy Word" (Michael W. Smith and Amy Grant)
(Rebecca Brunetta, alto)

Offertory Response:

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

Offering Song



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.

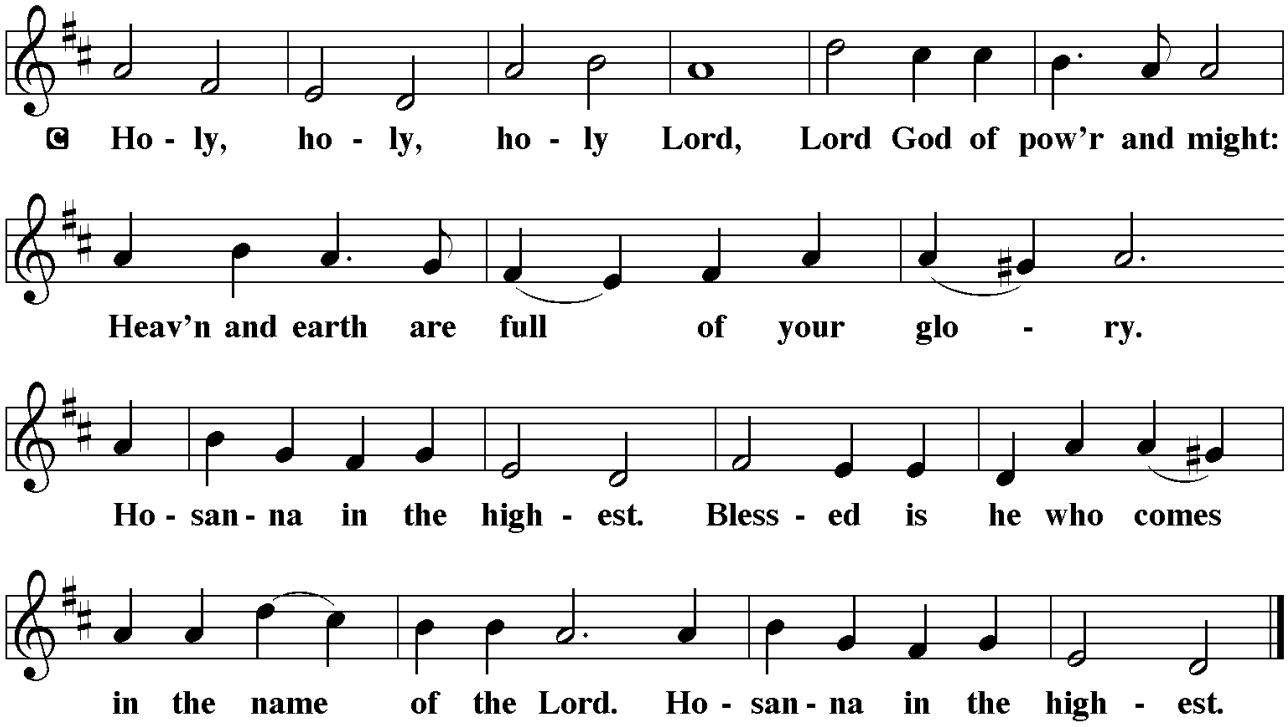
Great Thanksgiving

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, 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 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, our life, our strength, our food, we give you thanks for sustaining us with the body and blood of your Son. By your Holy Spirit, enliven us to be his body in the world, that more and more we will give you praise and serve your earth and its many peoples, 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.

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✢ give you peace. **Amen.**

Hymn "I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say" #611

1 I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Come unto me and rest;
lay down, O weary one, lay down
your head upon my breast."
I came to Jesus as I was,
so weary, worn, and sad;
I found in him a resting-place,
and he has made me glad.

2 I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Behold, I freely give
the living water, thirsty one;
stoop down and drink and live."
I came to Jesus, and I drank
of that life-giving stream;
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
and now I live in him.

3 I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"I am this dark world's light;
look unto me, your morn shall rise,
and all your day be bright."
I looked to Jesus, and I found
in him my star, my sun;
and in that light of life I'll walk
till trav'ling days are done.

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

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BLESSED TO BLESS

SERVING TODAY: **9:30 AM**

ACOLYTE Molly Boggs

LECTOR Bill Pfeifer

WORSHIP ASSISTANT Dianna Marusko

ALTAR GUILD for August includes Dianna Marusko, Carolyn Hanzel, and Cindy Bell.

PRAYER CONCERNS:

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER this week Brandie, Suzy, Terry, Doug, Dennis, Barry, Marsha, Kris, Ray, Mike, Judy, Jared, Lily, Andy, Sue, Hollie, Kevin, Paula, Frank, and Cameron.

THE ALTAR FLOWERS are given in memory of Bill and Jeanne Poole by his sisters.

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:

THANKS TO Pastor Allen Riethmiller for his worship leadership.

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE last weekend was 79.

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.

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED to set up and clean up for our Saturday Evening Worship in the Park. A sign-up sheet is in the Narthex.

FOOD BANK DISTRIBUTION is this Thursday. Assistance is needed around 7:30 AM to help with the set-up and the need for assistance increases at 8:00 AM to unload the truck and prepare for distribution. If you can lend a hand on Thursday morning, your effort will be greatly appreciated.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST:

Sunday – August 16 – Pentecost 12

9:30 – Worship

Monday – August 17

Newsletter Deadline

Wednesday – August 19

12:00 – Food From the Heart

Thursday – August 20

Foodbank

Saturday – August 22

6:00 – Worship in the Park

Picnic after worship

Sunday – August 23 – Pentecost 13

9:30 – Worship

"Blessed are you, Lord God, the God of Israel; you alone do wondrous deeds."

Psalm 72:18

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.

Dishes...

A dedicated group of ladies have cleaned out the kitchen and identified a number of items that are no longer needed. This includes a large number of dishes. Please take a look in the Fellowship Hall and see if you can use any of the items there. Donations for items taken are welcome, please clearly mark your donation - "Dishes".

Any items left at the end of August will be donated to Westmoreland Community Action to help people moving into new housing.

Saturday Worship In the Park

Weather permitting

Worship in the Park is back!

This summer we will once again have worship in the park. The last one will be Saturday August 22nd at 6:00 pm. Picnic to follow. 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!

Please plan to stay after worship on August 22nd for dinner (Ham BBQ, macaroni & cheese, fruit, & cookies)!

Trex Recycling Challenge

Plastic Patrol

Everyone is now a part of the Plastic Patrol of First Lutheran Church. Keep bringing in your plastic bags, etc. so we can **keep it out of our landfills** and get a *chance(s) each quarter to win a Trex bench for our park.

Totals to date:

Oct-Dec. 2025	166 pounds
Jan-Mar. 2026	253 pounds
Apr – Jun 2026	252 pounds
July – Sept 2026	138 pounds (as of August 5, 2026)
Grand total to date:	809 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.*

SHARING SPIRIT OF AMERICANS: Our church will be one of 250 partners with the WCFB honoring the sharing spirit of Americans by having a collection for the Food Bank from Sept. 1 to Sept 13 (Rally Day). Any nonperishable food item that is not out of date will be accepted in containers in the Fellowship Hall and the entrance to the education building. Some items that are of particular need include: canned tuna, chicken or salmon, canned fruits and vegetables, canned meals (ravioli, stew), peanut butter, macaroni and cheese, cereal and boxed meals (Hamburger Helper). With the rising cost of food and the increased burden on us all, your help in this collection is so much appreciated.

ORGAN REDEDICATION CONCERT at Zion's Saturday, August 22nd at 2:00 PM. Please enjoy this concert and rededication of the 1929/1936 Moller Pipe Organ. Join organists David Bridge and Dr. Nemesio Valle as we hear music of Bach, Elgar, Franck, and others. Come experience the beauty of this pipe organ!

SUMMER FOOD DRIVE

During the summer months, the Christian Outreach Committee will be collecting nonperishable items for our Emergency Food Cupboard. These items will be used to assist many individuals and families in our community.

We have also seen an increased need for personal care items. Anything you are able to provide is greatly appreciated!

August is "Canned Food Month": Items especially needed are:

Soup
Fruit
Canned pasta (SpaghettiOs, etc.)

August Personal Care: Toothpaste, Toothbrush (single or 2-pack), dish liquid, laundry detergent (small size)

A basket is located in the education building foyer for your donations.

Please **check the expiration dates** before donating, as we cannot distribute expired items in the Emergency Food bags. Thank you!

PUT IT ON YOUR CALENDAR!

Piano, Pipes, Peals, and Premieres on Sunday, October 18 at 4 PM. The program will be presented by Josh Beck (jazz piano and organ), Marc Tourre (baritone), Kathy Campbell (soprano sax), the FELC Handbell Choir….AND the world premiere of NO HEIGHT, NO DEPTH by composer Jonathan White for FELC choir and guest singers (baritone, solo, soprano saxophone) and accompanist Nancy Sheehan. Reception to follow. Spread the word!