

**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 THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 18, 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

### 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       “Christ Our Lord, You Had Compassion”**  
**(Sung to tune #461, Holy Manna)**

**1. Christ our Lord, you had compassion on the crowds that needed bread.**

**As you taught of God’s good blessings, you made sure that all were fed.**

**Bread to eat and bread from heaven, bread for blessing, bread to share.**

**You proclaimed God’s great abundance for God’s people everywhere.**

**2. Some saw only what was missing. “Jesus, send them home!” they said.**

**Sometimes we, too, lack the vision in a world that cries for bread. In a world that cries for justice, we are overwhelmed by need. What can we put into practice when the crowd’s too big to feed?**

**3. God of love, we know our limits; show us what your love can do.**

**Love can help us work together; love can build a world that’s new. Love can lead us to be faithful; love can give us gifts to share. Love can welcome in the stranger; love can seek a way that’s fair.**

**4. Christ our Lord, you offered blessings, bread, and fish, more than enough.**

**As you multiply our offerings, teach again the power of love. Bread of Life, you give us plenty, your salvation, gifts of bread. Thank you for your wondrous bounty! May we share till all are fed.**

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.*

**Ever-loving God, your Son gives himself as living bread for the life of the world. Fill us with such a knowledge of his presence that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life to serve you continually, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## WORD

### **First Reading                    Proverbs 9:1-6**

- <sup>1</sup> Wisdom has built her house,  
she has hewn her seven pillars.
- <sup>2</sup> She has slaughtered her animals, she has mixed her wine,  
she has also set her table.
- <sup>3</sup> She has sent out her servant-girls, she calls  
from the highest places in the town,
- <sup>4</sup> “You that are simple, turn in here!”  
To those without sense she says,
- <sup>5</sup> “Come, eat of my bread  
and drink of the wine I have mixed.
- <sup>6</sup> Lay aside immaturity, and live,  
and walk in the way of insight.”

The Word of the Lord.

**R/Thanks be to God!**

- <sup>9</sup> Fear the LORD, you saints | of the LORD,  
for those who fear the | LORD lack nothing.
- <sup>10</sup> **The lions are in want and | suffer hunger,  
but those who seek the LORD lack nothing | that is good.**
- <sup>11</sup> Come, children, and lis- | ten to me;  
I will teach you reverence | for the LORD.
- <sup>12</sup> **Who among you takes plea- | sure in life  
and desires long life to en- | joy prosperity?**
- <sup>13</sup> Keep your | tongue from evil  
and your lips from | lying words.
- <sup>14</sup> **Turn from evil | and do good;  
seek peace | and pursue it.**

**Second Reading: Ephesians 5:15-20**

<sup>15</sup> Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, <sup>16</sup> making the most of the time, because the days are evil. <sup>17</sup> So do not be foolish but understand what the will of the Lord is. <sup>18</sup> Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, <sup>19</sup> as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, <sup>20</sup> giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

**R/Thanks be to God!**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

***Alleluia.* Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me,  
and I abide in them. *Alleluia.***

Gospel

**John 6: 51-58**

P: The Holy Gospel according to John the sixth chapter.

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

[Jesus said,] <sup>51</sup> “I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.”

<sup>52</sup> The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?” <sup>53</sup> So Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. <sup>54</sup> Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; <sup>55</sup> for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. <sup>56</sup> Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. <sup>57</sup> Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. <sup>58</sup> This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.”

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

## **Youth Sermon**

### **Sermon**

#### **HYMN “O Bread Of Life, You Called Your Friends” (Sung to hymn #516)**

- 1. O Bread of Life, you called your friends  
to eat and drink your life.  
You gave a gift that never ends  
through your own sacrifice.**
- 2. Some people said, “It’s much too hard  
to understand your way.”  
They said, “This teaching goes too far,”  
and so they went away.**



**3. Your friends asked, “How can we receive  
the life that comes from you?”  
You told them, “Just believe in me  
and you will be made new.”**

**4. O Jesus, come abide in us,  
may we be Spirit-led  
To turn to you in faith and trust,  
for you’re the living bread.**

## **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.*

Calling on the spirit of Wisdom to guide our hearts and our minds, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*At each petition,*  
Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

*The presiding minister concludes the prayers with these words.*  
We lift up these prayers to you, gracious God. Receive them into your holy keeping.  
**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](http://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 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 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.

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.**

### **Hymn      “O Jesus, You Were Born To Be” (Sung to Hymn #565, Tallis Canon)**

- 1. O Jesus, you were born to be  
God’s gift to save humanity;  
And one great day we’re moving toward,  
all life will bow and call you Lord!**
- 2. You taught the people every day  
as Rabbi, Teacher of the Way;  
O Master, may we learn from you  
to love both God and neighbor, too.**
- 3. You are the Bread that satisfies,  
the Light that guides us through our lives,  
The Gate that leads us safely home,  
the Shepherd calling to your own.**



- 4. O Son of God and Son of Man,  
you trusted and obeyed God’s plan;  
The poor, the sick and those in need  
cried “Son of David, set us free!”**
  
- 5. You are Messiah, you are Christ,  
anointed One, God’s sacrifice.  
In you, God’s mercy is revealed:  
we’re saved from sin, forgiven, healed.**
  
- 6. O Jesus, you’re the living Way,  
the Resurrection, God’s new Day.  
You give us hope and make us new;  
how wondrous is our life in you!**

Dismissal

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**Thanks be to God.**

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*“Cast all your anxieties upon God,  
because he cares for you.”*

*1Peter 4:7*

# BLESSED TO BLESS

## SERVING TODAY:

**ACOLYTE** is Corrina Vuick.

**LECTOR** is Malcolm Sias.

**WORSHIP ASSISTANT** is Rebecca Brunetta.

## SERVING IN AUGUST:

**ALTAR GUILD** for August includes Dianna Marusko.

## PRAYER CONCERNS:

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER** this week Brandie, Suzy, Terry, Joyce, Cullen, Doug, Gavin, Dennis, Larry, Alan, Connie, Caroline, Mark, Cindy, Brody, Scott, Carolyn, Blanca, Connie, Larry, Joanne, Marie, Jean, Harry, Wendy, Sherrie, Matt, Daniel, Kelly, and Bob.

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

**THE CHANCEL FLOWERS** are given in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Alvah Kurtz, Edna S. Johnson, and Sharon O'Hare by Nancy O'Hare

**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.

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION:**

**Today's hymn texts were written by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, a Presbyterian pastor and church musician.**

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

**ATTENDANCE** last Sunday was 80.

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE** Monday, August 19.

**FINANCE** 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).

**RUTH CIRCLE** will meet on Thursday August 22 at 7:00 PM in the church parlor. We will be planning our schedule for the upcoming year. All women of the congregation are most welcome.

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

**SUMMER SOLOISTS: August 25 Marc Toure, baritone**

**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](mailto: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.

## Stewardship Snippets

**Ephesians 5:15,16** – Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil.

*God gives all of us the same abundance of time – 24 hours in every day, and it's so easy to waste! Steward disciples pray for wisdom to live each day to its fullest, and to turn away from the world's evils.*

## 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.

August is “Canned Food Month.” Items especially needed are:

Soup

Fruit

Canned pasta (SpaghettiOs, etc.)



A box 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!

## **Bibles for Love Packages**

### **Bibles WILL BE COLLECTED THROUGH RALLY DAY**

Boxes for your items will be located in the Narthex, the Education Building and the Fellowship Hall.

For more information on Love Packages check them out on [lovepackages.org](http://lovepackages.org)

## **Rally Day Cookies for First Responders!**

### **Sunday, September 8th Rally Day**



**Hands are needed to:**

- **Make cookies!**
- **Deliver cookies to the Fellowship Hall by 10 am Saturday, September 7<sup>th</sup>!**
- **Pack cookies on Saturday, September 7<sup>th</sup>.**
- **Deliver cookies to First Responders after Church on Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup>.**

**Our Thanks for your help!**

**The Christian Outreach Committee**



**RALLY DAY PLANNED FOR SUNDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 8**

On September 8, we will kick off another year of Christian learning and mission with a Rally Day. Sunday Church School resumes from 9:30 to 10:30 AM with classes for all ages.

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

- Sloppy Joes / hotdogs
- Chips
- Sundae Bar
- Lemonade / Coffee / Tea

Please complete a reservation form (below) and return it to the church office or you may call the church office. Reservations are requested by **September 1, 2024**.

All are welcome! Make sure to mark your calendar to kick off this year of learning and mission!

\*\*\*\*\*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Number attending \_\_\_\_\_

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