

**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 27, 2023  
8:15 AM & 10:00 AM

## THE WORSHIP SERVICE

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

### GATHERING

Prelude

“Foundation”

W. Held

### 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.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,  
who forgives all our sin,  
whose mercy endures forever.      **Amen.**

*The presiding minister may lead one of the following or another prayer of preparation.*

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our 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.*

Gracious God,  
have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and  
given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly  
repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown,  
things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to  
you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you  
in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

*The presiding minister announces God's forgiveness.*

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and  
made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the  
name of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen  
you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your  
hearts through faith. **Amen.**

## **HYMN      “The Church’s One Foundation”**

**#434**

- 1 The church's one foundation  
is Jesus Christ, her Lord;  
she is his new creation  
by water and the word.  
From heav'n he came and sought her  
to be his holy bride;  
with his own blood he bought her,  
and for her life he died.**
- 2 Elect from ev'ry nation,  
yet one o'er all the earth,  
her charter of salvation  
one Lord, one faith, one birth:  
one holy name she blesses,  
partakes one holy food,  
and to one hope she presses,  
with ev'ry grace endued.**

**3 Though with a scornful wonder  
this world sees her oppressed,  
by schisms rent asunder,  
by heresies distressed,  
yet saints their watch are keeping;  
their cry goes up: "How long?"  
And soon the night of weeping  
shall be the morn of song.**

**4 Through toil and tribulation  
and tumult of her war,  
she waits the consummation  
of peace forevermore;  
till with the vision glorious  
her longing eyes are blest,  
and the great church victorious  
shall be the church at rest.**

**5 Yet she on earth has union  
with God, the Three in One,  
and mystic sweet communion  
with those whose rest is won.  
Oh, blessed heav'nly chorus!  
Lord, save us by your grace,  
that we, like saints before us,  
may see you face to face.**

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.*

**O God, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.                      Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## WORD

### First Reading                      **Isaiah 51:1-6**

<sup>1</sup>Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness,  
you that seek the LORD.

Look to the rock from which you were hewn,  
and to the quarry from which you were dug.

<sup>2</sup>Look to Abraham your father  
and to Sarah who bore you;  
for he was but one when I called him,  
but I blessed him and made him many.

<sup>3</sup>For the LORD will comfort Zion;  
he will comfort all her waste places,  
and will make her wilderness like Eden,  
her desert like the garden of the LORD;  
joy and gladness will be found in her,  
thanksgiving and the voice of song.

<sup>4</sup>Listen to me, my people,  
and give heed to me, my nation;  
for a teaching will go out from me,  
and my justice for a light to the peoples.

<sup>5</sup>I will bring near my deliverance swiftly,  
my salvation has gone out  
and my arms will rule the peoples;  
the coastlands wait for me,  
and for my arm they hope.  
<sup>6</sup>Lift up your eyes to the heavens,  
and look at the earth beneath;  
for the heavens will vanish like smoke,  
the earth will wear out like a garment,  
and those who live on it will die like gnats;  
but my salvation will be forever,  
and my deliverance will never be ended.

The Word of the Lord.

**R/Thanks be to God!**

## **Psalm 138**

<sup>1</sup>I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with <sup>|</sup> my whole heart;  
before the gods I will <sup>|</sup> sing your praise.  
<sup>2</sup>**I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name,  
because of your steadfast <sup>|</sup> love and faithfulness;  
for you have glorified your name and your word a- <sup>|</sup> bove all  
things.**  
<sup>3</sup>When I called, you <sup>|</sup> answered me;  
you increased my <sup>|</sup> strength within me.  
<sup>4</sup>**All the rulers of the earth will praise <sup>|</sup> you, O LORD,  
when they have heard the words <sup>|</sup> of your mouth.**  
<sup>5</sup>They will sing of the ways <sup>|</sup> of the LORD,  
that great is the glory <sup>|</sup> of the LORD.  
<sup>6</sup>**The LORD is high, yet cares <sup>|</sup> for the lowly,  
perceiving the haughty <sup>|</sup> from afar.**  
<sup>7</sup>Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you <sup>|</sup> keep me safe;  
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your  
right <sup>|</sup> hand shall save me.

**<sup>8</sup>You will make good your pur-<sup>1</sup>pose for me;  
O LORD, your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon  
the works<sup>1</sup> of your hands.**

**Second Reading**

**Romans 12:1-8**

<sup>1</sup>I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. <sup>2</sup>Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

<sup>3</sup>For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. <sup>4</sup>For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, <sup>5</sup>so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. <sup>6</sup>We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; <sup>7</sup>ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; <sup>8</sup>the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

The Word of the Lord.

**R/Thanks be to God!**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

***Alleluia. You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God. Alleluia.***

**Gospel**

**Matthew 16:13-20**

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

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



<sup>13</sup>Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” <sup>14</sup>And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” <sup>15</sup>He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” <sup>16</sup>Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” <sup>17</sup>And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. <sup>18</sup>And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. <sup>19</sup>I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” <sup>20</sup>Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

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

## **Sermon**

**HYMN “Take My Life, That I May Be”**

**#685**

- 1 Take my life, that I may be  
consecrated, Lord, to thee;  
take my moments and my days;  
let them flow in ceaseless praise.**
- 2 Take my hands and let them move  
at the impulse of thy love;  
take my feet and let them be  
swift and beautiful for thee.**
- 3 Take my voice and let me sing  
always, only, for my King;  
take my lips and let them be  
filled with messages from thee.**

**4 Take my silver and my gold,  
not a mite would I withhold;  
take my intellect and use  
ev'ry pow'r as thou shall choose.**

**5 Take my will and make it thine,  
it shall be no longer mine.  
Take my heart, it is thine own,  
it shall be thy royal throne.**

**6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour  
at thy feet its treasure store;  
take myself, and I will be  
ever, only, all for thee.**

## **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.*

Confident that God receives our joys and concerns, let us offer our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of creation.

*At each petition,*

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, in the name of the one who reconciled all creation to himself, Jesus Christ our Savior.  
**Amen.**

## The Peace

*The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.*

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say Peace be with you or similar words.*

*The assembly is seated.*

# THE MEAL

Offering

Offertory

“Andante”

R. Haan

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.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923

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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 Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ;  
who on this day overcame death and the grave,  
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.  
And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## Holy, Holy, Holy

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The lyrics are: '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.'

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

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.**

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

The gifts of God for the people of God. Taste and see that the Lord is good.

## COMMUNION

For those receiving the sacrament please note the following:

- Communion is at the rail for those who desire.
- *We encourage everyone to continue using hand sanitizer before coming forward for communion.*
- *As you approach the chancel, take a plastic cup from the tray.*
- *The communion rail will fill from both sides of the congregation.*
- *We encourage everyone to leave added space at the rail, primarily between family units.*

- *Cups can be placed in the empty trays near each side aisle as you return to your pew.*
- *For those who would like to receive communion, but are not comfortable coming to the rail, please let an Usher know so that the Pastor and Assisting Minister can bring communion to you.*

*When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say*

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

*and each person may respond Amen.*

*After all have received,*

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

*The assisting minister leads a prayer after communion.*

Let us pray.

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

## **SENDING**

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

### **Blessing**

*The presiding minister proclaims God's blessing.*

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.**



**1 Faith of our fathers, living still  
in spite of dungeon, fire, and sword.  
Oh, how our hearts beat high with joy  
whene'er we hear that glorious word.**

***Refrain***

**Faith of our fathers, holy faith,  
we will be true to thee till death.**

**2 The martyrs, chained in prisons dark,  
were still in heart and conscience free;  
and blest would be their children's fate  
if they, like them, should die for thee. *Refrain***

**3 Faith of our fathers! We will love  
both friend and foe in all our strife;  
proclaim thee too, as love knows how,  
by saving word and faithful life. *Refrain***

**Dismissal**

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

**Postlude: “To Greet the Morning”**

**D. Paxton**

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# BLESSED TO BLESS

## **SERVING TODAY:**

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

**LECTORS** are Jean Miller and Bob Errett.

**WORSHIP ASSISTANT** is Pat Yost.

**AUGUST ALTAR GUILD:** Dianna Marusko

**AUGUST 8:15 USHERS:** Sue Boggs, Liz Rowe, Bill Pfeifer, and Brian Erdman.

## **PRAYER CONCERNS:**

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER** this week Brandie, Suzy, Lois, Terry, Joyce, Cullen, Doug, Gavin, Felicia, Kacie, Duane, Shirley, Dennis, Teresa, Lil, Jeff, Jan, Dylan, Judy, Stephen, Connie, Lisa, Jaina, Kim, Babs, Vinnie, and Betty.

**THE ALTAR FLOWERS** are given in memory of Ethel Peters by Holly Rowe.

**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.

# **IMPORTANT INFORMATION:**

**THANKS** to Nancy Finke Sheehan, for her musical assistance this morning.

**EXECUTIVE** Tuesday, 6:00 PM.

**CHORAL SOCIETY** Tuesday, 7:00 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).

**PROPERTY** Wednesday, 6:30 PM

**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!

**NOISY OFFERING** is next Sunday and will be donated to the Little Free Food Truck which is sponsored by Aliquippa, PA's House of Prayer Lutheran Church. This program began with a weekly sit-down meal which has grown to meet the needs of approximately 80 people each week. As the program developed, it became clear that many of the guests found traveling to dine at House of Prayer's facility challenging. House of Prayer pondered the problem and came up with the idea of "The Little Free Food Truck" where they take the food to those in need. The Synod pitched in with help from the Ethel Versey Grant to Synod. This grant stipulates that it was given to provide care for programs that help needy people.

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

**WORSHIP ATTENDANCE** last Sunday morning was 88.

**ARE YOU MISSING A KEY?** A key was mixed in with the Noisy Offering from August 6. Check with the office staff.

## **Cookies For First Responders!**

**Sunday September 10th Rally Day**

Hands are needed to:

- make cookies!
- deliver cookies to the Fellowship Hall Kitchen by Saturday Sept. 9th!
- pack cookies on Saturday Sept. 9th at 10:00 am!
- deliver cookies to First Responders after Church on Sunday. Sept. 10th!



Our Thanks for your help!

The Christian Outreach Committee

*“The Lord shall preserve thee  
from all evil, he shall  
preserve your soul.”*

*Psalms 121:7*

## **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**

# LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE

The significant loss of life and damage caused by the wildfires in Hawaii have turned our prayers and attention to mourning those lost, supporting the survivors and how Lutheran Disaster Response can assist with recovery.

Exacerbated by strong winds, wildfires on Maui have claimed dozens of lives and have destroyed homes, businesses and lines of communication. The Big Island of Hawaii has also been impacted by wildfires, and more islands remain vulnerable to additional fires this season.

**Lutheran Disaster Response is prepared to accompany our neighbors in Hawaii impacted by these wildfires. Will you consider a gift today?**

Lutheran Disaster Response is coordinating with the Pacifica Synod and other partners to assess the needs of people impacted by the wildfires. We will work with them to provide for immediate needs and long-term recovery amid the widespread destruction. Lutheran Disaster Response is committed to accompanying recovering communities in the years ahead.

If you would like to help, here's what you can do:

- Write out a check payable to First Lutheran Church (or you can give cash). (Note: We will utilize Matching Funds for this response.)
- Place it in an envelope and write **“Maui Wildfires”** on the outside of the envelope.
- Put the envelope in the offering basket or bring it to the church office.

Your donation will be forwarded to the ELCA's disaster relief office, and 100% of your gift will be used to assist those affected by the wildfires.



## RALLY DAY PLANNED FOR SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

On September 10, 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:

Chicken Salad Croissant Sandwiches

Hot Dogs on buns for the kids!

Pickles Chips Cookies

Punch / 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 3, 2023**.

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.*