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.

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 30, 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 **"Prelude in C major"** (J.S. Bach)

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 "Will You Come and Follow Me" #798

1 "Will you come and follow me
if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know
and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown,
will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown
in you and you in me?

2 "Will you leave yourself behind
if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind
and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare,
should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer pray'r
in you and you in me?

3 "Will you let the blinded see
if I but call your name?
Will you set the pris'ners free
and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean,
and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean
in you and you in me?

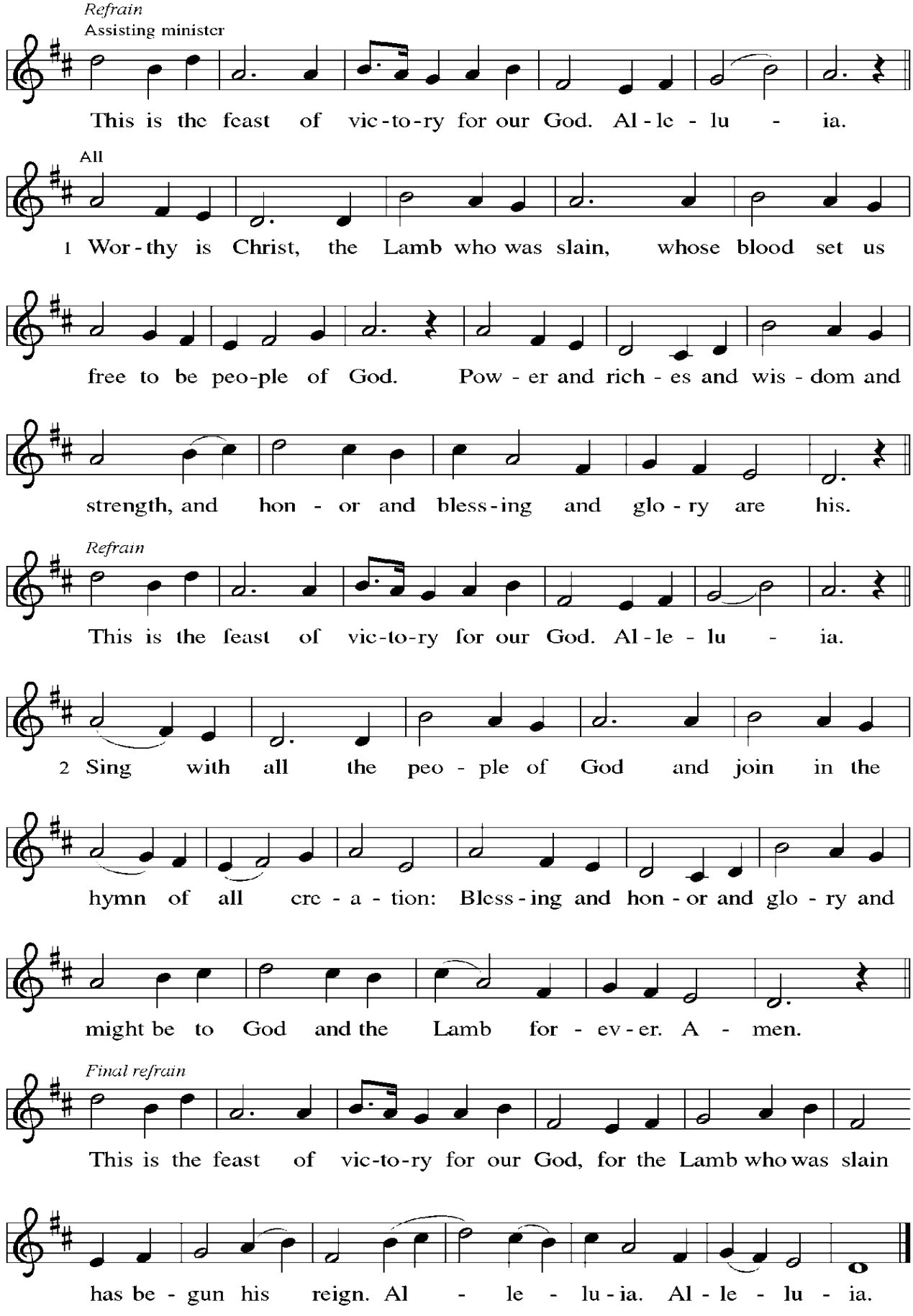
4 "Will you love the you you hide
if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside
and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found
to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound
in you and you in me?"

5 Lord, your summons echoes true
when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you
and never be the same.
In your company I'll go
where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow
in you and you in me.

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.

O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

The assembly is seated.

WORD

First Reading **Jeremiah 15:15-21**

15 O Lord, you know;
remember me and visit me,
and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors.
In your forbearance do not take me away;
know that on your account I suffer insult.
16 Your words were found, and I ate them,
and your words became to me a joy
and the delight of my heart;
for I am called by your name,
O Lord, God of hosts.
17 I did not sit in the company of merrymakers,
nor did I rejoice;
under the weight of your hand I sat alone,
for you had filled me with indignation.
18 Why is my pain unceasing,
my wound incurable,
refusing to be healed?
Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook,
like waters that fail.

19 Therefore thus says the Lord:
If you turn back, I will take you back,
and you shall stand before me.
If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless,
you shall serve as my mouth.
It is they who will turn to you,
not you who will turn to them.
20 And I will make you to this people
a fortified wall of bronze;
they will fight against you,
but they shall not prevail over you,
for I am with you
to save you and deliver you,
says the Lord.
21 I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked,
and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

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

Psalm 26:1-8 *(Read Responsively)*

1 Give judgment for me, O Lord, for I have lived | with integrity;
I have trusted in the Lord and | have not faltered.
2 **Test me, O | Lord, and try me;**
examine my heart | and my mind.
3 For your steadfast love is be- | fore my eyes;
I have walked faithful- | ly with you.
4 **I have not sat | with the worthless,**
nor do I consort with | the deceitful.
5 I have hated the company of | evildoers;
I will not sit down | with the wicked.
6 **I will wash my hands in inno- | cence, O Lord,**
that I may go in procession | round your altar,
7 singing aloud a song | of thanksgiving
and recounting all your won- | derful deeds.
8 **Lord, I love the house in | which you dwell**
and the place where your glo- | ry abides.

Second Reading **Romans 12:9-21**

9 Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; 10 love
one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing
honor. 11 Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. 12 Rejoice
in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. 13 Contribute to the
needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.
14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse
them. 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who
weep. 16 Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but
associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. 17 Do not
repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight
of all. 18 If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with
all. 19 Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of
God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says
the Lord." 20 No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are
thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap
burning coals on their heads." 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but
overcome evil with good.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia. **May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our hearts, so that we may know the hope to which God has called us.** ***Alleluia.***

Gospel **Matthew 16: 21-28**

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

R/ Glory to you, O Lord.

[21] From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. [22] And Peter took Jesus aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." [23] But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

[24] Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. [25] For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. [26] For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

[27] "For the Son-of-Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. [28] Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son-of-Man coming in his dominion."

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

Youth Sermon

Sermon

Hymn "Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus" #802

1 Let us ever walk with Jesus,
follow his example pure,
through a world that would deceive us
and to sin our spirits lure.
Onward in his footsteps treading,
trav'lers here, our home above,
full of faith and hope and love,
let us do our Savior's bidding.
Faithful Lord, with me abide;
I shall follow where you guide.

2 **Let us suffer here with Jesus,**
and with patience bear our cross.
Joy will follow all our sadness;
where he is there is no loss.
Though today we sow no laughter,
we shall reap celestial joy:
all discomforts that annoy
shall give way to mirth hereafter.
Jesus, here I share your woe;
help me there your joy to know.

3 **Let us gladly die with Jesus.**
Since by death he conquered death,
he will free us from destruction,
give to us immortal breath.
Let us mortify all passion
that would lead us into sin;
and the grave that shuts us in
shall but prove the gate of heaven.
Jesus, here with you I die,
there to live with you on high.

4 **Let us also live with Jesus.**
He has risen from the dead
that to life we may awaken.
Jesus, you are now our head,
we are your own living members;
where you live, there we shall be
in your presence constantly,
living there with you forever.
Jesus, let me faithful be;
life eternal grant to 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.

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.

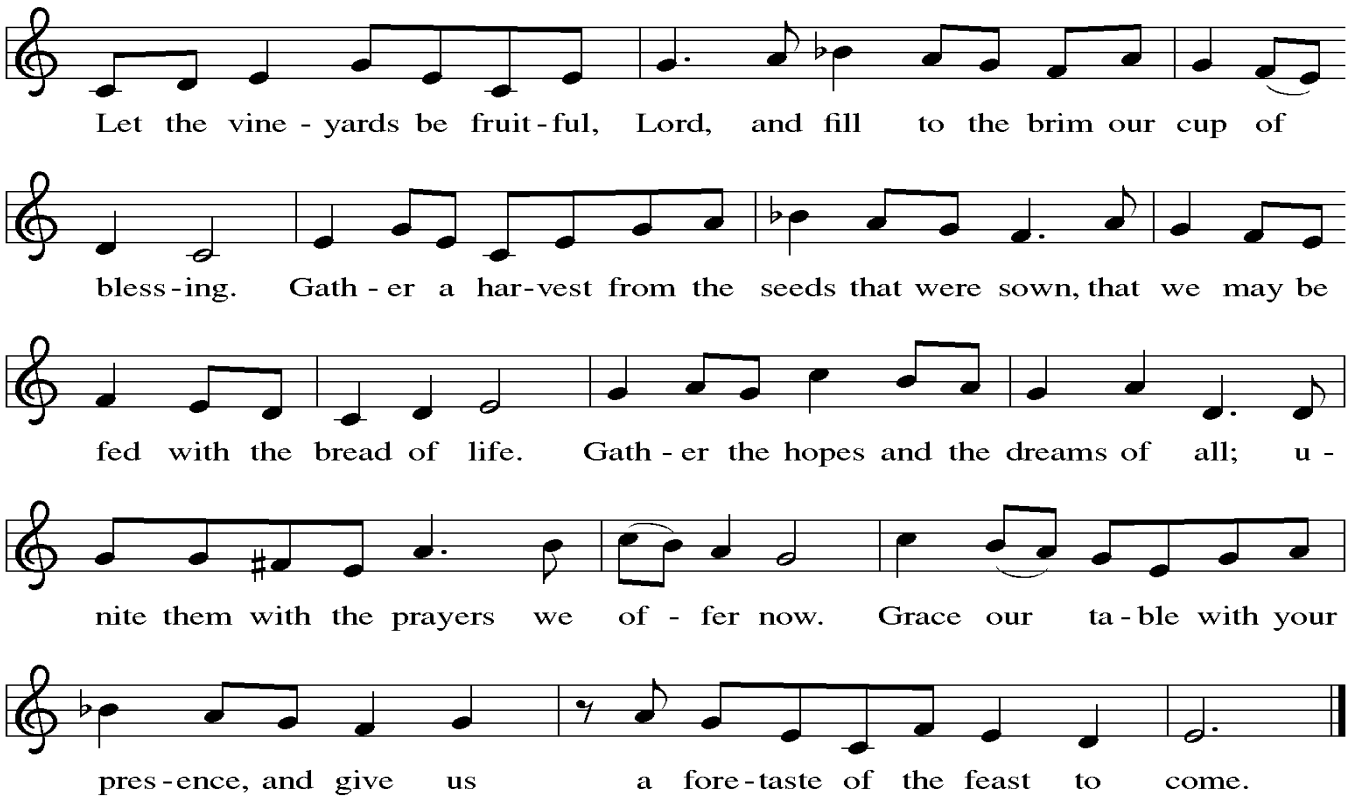
(Children, please bring your offering to the front of the church and place it in the "Thank You Jesus" Jar.)

Offertory "Prelude in e minor" (J.S. Bach)

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.

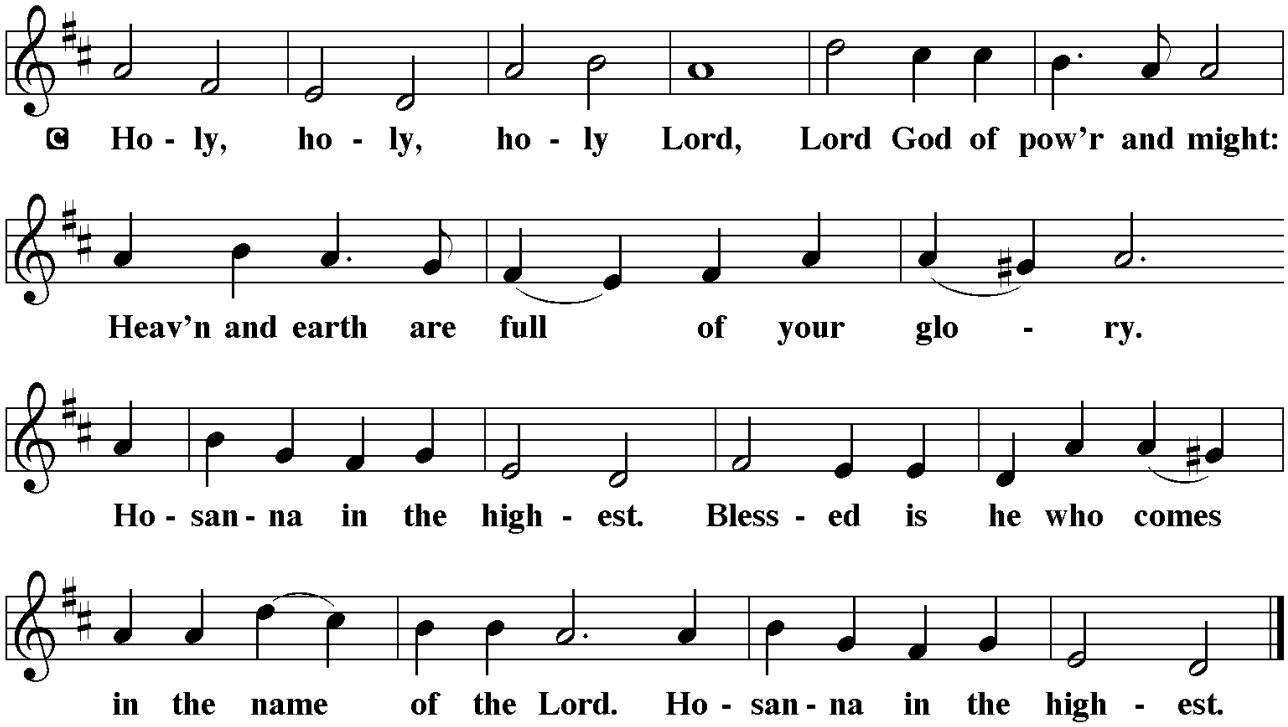
Great Thanksgiving

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 "For the Beauty of the Earth" #879

1 For the beauty of the earth,
for the beauty of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies:

Refrain
Christ, our God, to thee we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.

2 For the wonder of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale and tree and flow'r,
sun and moon and stars of light: ***Refrain***

3 For the joy of ear and eye,
for the heart and mind's delight,
for the mystic harmony
linking sense to sound and sight: ***Refrain***

4 For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth and friends above;
for all gentle thoughts and mild: ***Refrain***

5 For each perfect gift of thine,
peace on earth and joy in heav'n;
for thyself, best gift divine,
to our world so freely giv'n: Refrain

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 Owen Lenhart

LECTOR Tawnya Combs

WORSHIP ASSISTANT Rebecca Brunetta

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, Cameron, Lee, Jerry, Jacob, Lisa, Mark, Jack, Melanie, Mikey, and Cindy.

THE ALTAR FLOWERS are given in memory of Ralph G. and Jean Steel by Suzy and Tom Flory and sons.

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:

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE last weekend was 91.

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.

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!

THIS WEEK AT FIRST:

Sunday – August 30 – Pentecost 14

9:30 – Worship

Monday – August 31

6:00 – Finance

7:00 – Executive

Wednesday – September 2

12:00 – Food From the Heart

6:30 - Fellowship

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

Psalm 72:18

Sunday – September 6 – Pentecost 15

NOISY OFFERING for Lutheran Indian Ministries

9:30 – Worship

WORSHIP will return to our fall schedule on September 13 with services at 8:15 and 10:45 AM.

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.

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.

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.

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:

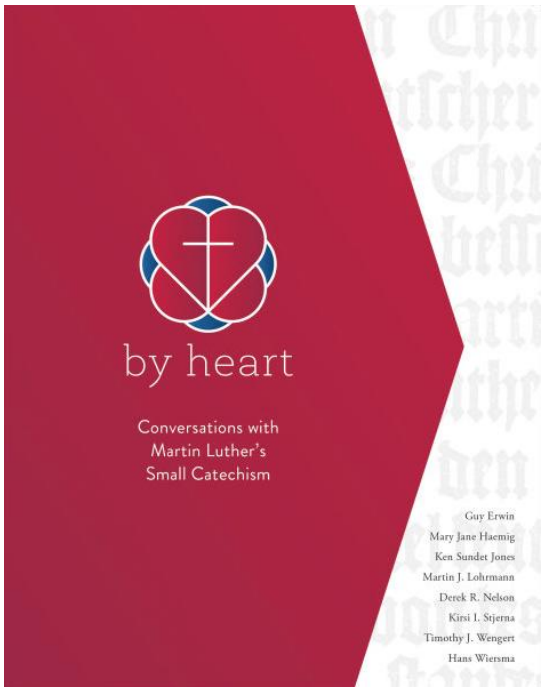
Oct-Dec. 2025	166 pounds
Jan-Mar. 2026	253 pounds
Apr – Jun 2026	252 pounds
July – Sept 2026	183 pounds (as of August 28, 2026)
Grand total to date:	854 POUNDS

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.*

PUT IT ON YOUR CALENDAR!

Piano, Pipes, Peals, and Premieres on Sunday, October 18 at 4:00 PM in the Sanctuary. The program will feature the world premiere of NO HEIGHT, NO DEPTH by composer Jonathan White, in honor of Marvin Huls, featuring the FELC choir and guest choir members, Marc Tourre (baritone), Kathleen Campbell (soprano saxophone), and Nancy Finke Sheehan (accompanist). Also on the program will be the Re-Premiere of SERENITY PRAYER, written by noted composer, Mark Hayes, in honor of Gwen Irwin by her children. Special guest will be Josh Beck (jazz piano and organ) with hymn improvisations. A reception will follow. Free and open to the public.



Adult Study

Our Adult Study resumes on September 14th. This year we will be studying Luther's Small Catechism, utilizing *by heart: Conversations with Martin Luther's Small Catechism.* Books will be available in the office by September 1st. If you are able, we are requesting $15/book to help cover the cost of these books.

Hope you can join the conversation in the Fellowship Hall on the 14th at either 1:30 pm or 6:00 pm.

Future dates are October 19th,` November 16th, and December 14th.

FIRST THURSDAY WORSHIP & LUNCHEON at Zion's Evangelical Lutheran Church Thursday, September 3. Service at 12:05 PM and lunch at 12:30 PM. Hot dogs, baked bean casserole, macaroni salad, and fruit cobbler. Suggested donation of $5.00.

Rally Day Cookies for First Responders!
Sunday, September 13th Rally Day

Hands are needed to:

- **Make cookies!**
- **Deliver cookies to the Fellowship Hall by 10 am Saturday, September 12th!**
- **Pack cookies on Saturday, September 12th.**
- **Deliver cookies to First Responders after Church on Sunday, September 13th.**

Our Thanks for your help!
The Christian Outreach Committee

SEPTEMBER NOISY OFFERING is for LUTHERAN INDIAN MINISTRIES

The Noisy Offerings in September and October will support Lutheran Indian Ministries (LIM). Based in Wisconsin, LIM's focus is outreach and Christian ministry to Indian and Alaskan Native Americans, many who carry feelings of anger, hopelessness, and/or trauma stemming from the ways their communities have historically been treated. LIM is faith-based aligning most closely with Lutheran theology and believe "the only true hope for healing is to deal with the effects of trauma in a biblical way." The goal is to bring Christ into people's lives as the best way to help address many old and new emotional and traumatic challenges that impact both individuals and their communities. To learn more please view a five-minute video at:

lutheranindianministries.org/about-lim-2025

RALLY DAY PLANNED FOR SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

On September 13, 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
Chips / pickles
Cookies
Lemonade / Coffee / Tea

Reservation forms for the lunch are included in the church bulletin, use the form below or you may call the church office. Reservations are requested by September 6, 2026. All are welcome! Make sure to mark your calendar to kick off this year of learning and mission!

RALLY DAY LUNCH RESERVATION

Name_____

Number attending _____

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