# 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.

# SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 20, 2026
8:15 AM & 10:45 AM

# THE WORSHIP SERVICE

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

## GATHERING

Prelude

8:15 **"Precious Lord, Take My Hand"**
(arr. Sylvia Oines)

10:45 **"How Firm a Foundation"**
(arr. Jeffrey Cadwell)
Michele Boulet, flute

### 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 creates, redeems, and sustains us
and all of creation.
**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.*

To you, O God,
**all hearts are open, to you all desires known. We come to you, confessing our sins. Forgive us in your mercy, and remember us in your love. Show us your ways; teach us your paths; and lead us in justice and truth, for the sake of your goodness in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

*The presiding minister announces God's forgiveness.*
By water and the Holy Spirit God gives you a new birth, and through the death and resurrection of ☩ Jesus Christ, God forgives you all your sins. The God of mercy and might strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in eternal life.
**Amen.**

## Hymn "As Saints of Old" #695

**1 As saints of old their firstfruits brought**
**of orchard, flock, and field**
**to God, the giver of all good,**
**the source of bounteous yield;**
**so we today firstfruits would bring,**
**the wealth of this good land,**
**of farm and market, shop and home,**
**of mind and heart and hand.**

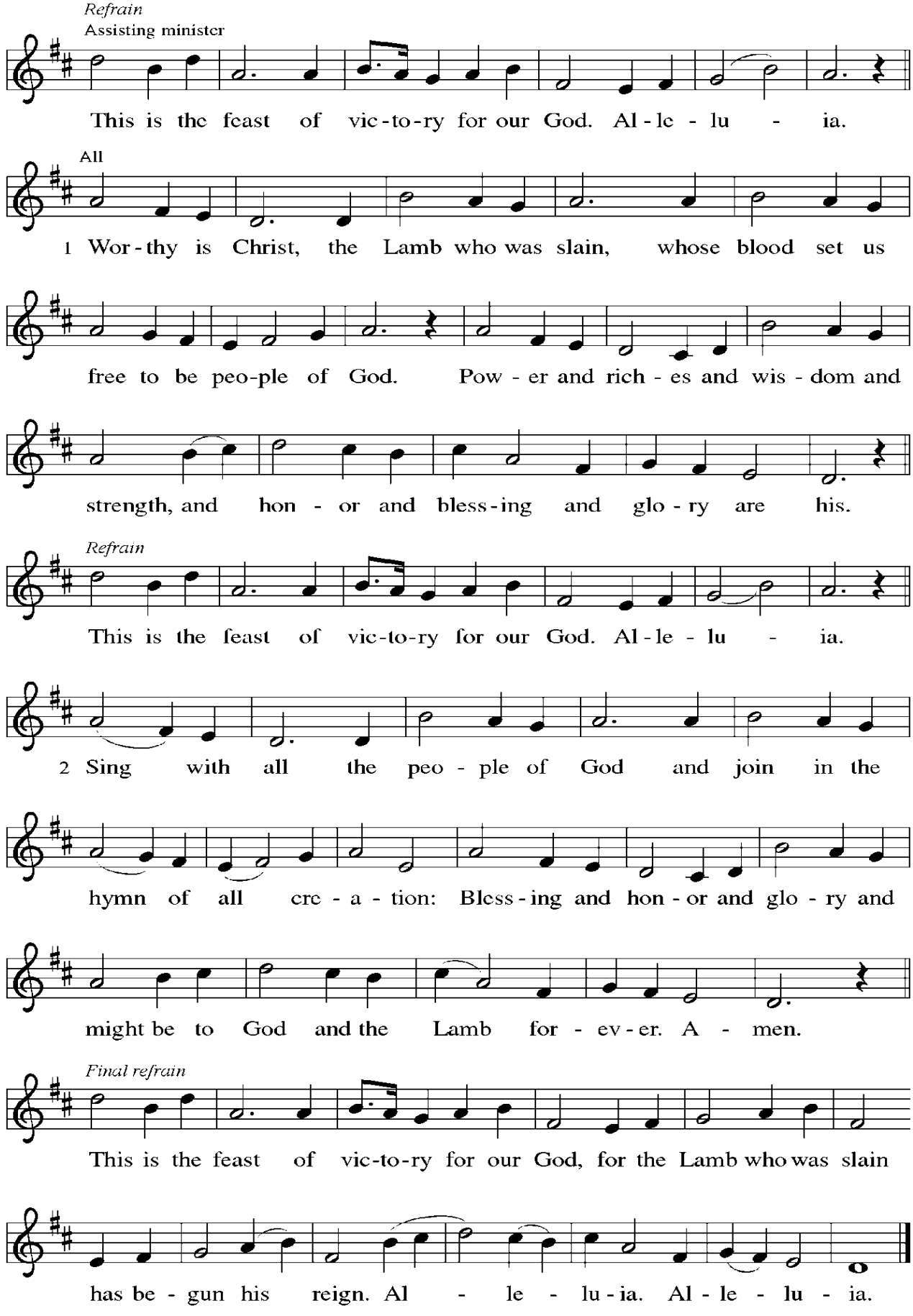
**2 A world in need now summons us**
**to labor, love, and give;**
**to make our life an offering**
**to God, that all may live.**
**The church of Christ is calling us**
**to make the dream come true:**
**a world redeemed by Christ-like love;**
**all life in Christ made new.**

**3 In gratitude and humble trust**
**we bring our best today**
**to serve your cause and share your love**
**with all along life's way.**
**O God, who gave yourself to us**
**in Jesus Christ your Son,**
**teach us to give ourselves each day**
**until life's work is done.**

## 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.*

**Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen**

*The assembly is seated.*

## WORD

First Reading **Jonah 3:10—4:11**

10 When God saw what the people of Nineveh did, how they turned
from their evil ways, God had second thoughts about the calamity that
God said would be done to them; and God did not do it.
4:1 But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. 2 He
prayed to the Lord and said, "O Lord! Is not this what I said while I
was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the
beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to
anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from
punishing. 3 And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is
better for me to die than to live." 4 And the Lord said, "Is it right for
you to be angry?" 5 Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east
of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the
shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.
6 The Lord God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah,
to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah
was very happy about the bush. 7 But when dawn came up the next day,
God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it
withered. 8 When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the
sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that
he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

9 But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the
bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” 10 Then the Lord said,
“You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and
which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a
night. 11 And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city,
in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons
who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many
animals?”

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

## Psalm 145:1-8 *(Read Responsively)*

1 I will exalt you, my | God and king,
and bless your name forev- | er and ever.
2 **Every day | will I bless you**
**and praise your name forev- | er and ever.**
3 Great is the Lord and greatly | to be praised!
There is no end | to your greatness.
4 **One generation shall praise your works | to another**
**and shall de- | clare your power.**
5 I will speak of the glorious splendor | of your majesty
and all your | marvelous works.
6 **They shall tell of the might of your | wondrous acts,**
**and I will re- | count your greatness.**
7 They shall publish the remembrance of | your great goodness;
they shall sing joyfully | of your righteousness.
8 **The Lord is gracious and full | of compassion,**
**slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love.**

Second Reading **Philippians 1:21-30**

[21] For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. [22] If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. [23] I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; [24] but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. [25] Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, [26] so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

[27] Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, [28] and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. [29] For God has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for Christ as well—[30] since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

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

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

***Alleluia.*** **Open our hearts, O Lord, to give heed to what is said by your Son.** ***Alleluia.***

Gospel **Matthew 20:1-16**

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

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

[Jesus said:] [1] “The dominion of heaven is like a landowner who went out
early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. [2] After agreeing
with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his
vineyard. [3] When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing
idle in the marketplace; [4] and he said to them, ‘You also go into the
vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. [5] “When he
went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the
same. [6] And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing
around; and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all
day?’ [7] They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them,
‘You also go into the vineyard.’ [8] “When evening came, the owner of the
vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay,
beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ [9] When those hired
about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily
wage. [10] Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more;
but each of them also received the usual daily wage. [11] And when they
received it, they grumbled against the landowner, [12] saying, ‘These last
worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have
borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ [13] But he replied to
one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with
me for the usual daily wage? [14] Take what belongs to you and go; I
choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. [15] Am I not allowed
to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious
because I am generous?’ [16] So the last will be first, and the first will be
last.”

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

## Youth Sermon

## 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.*

Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

*At each petition,*
Hear us, O God.
**Your mercy is great.**

*The presiding minister concludes the prayers with these words.*
Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name.
**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.)*

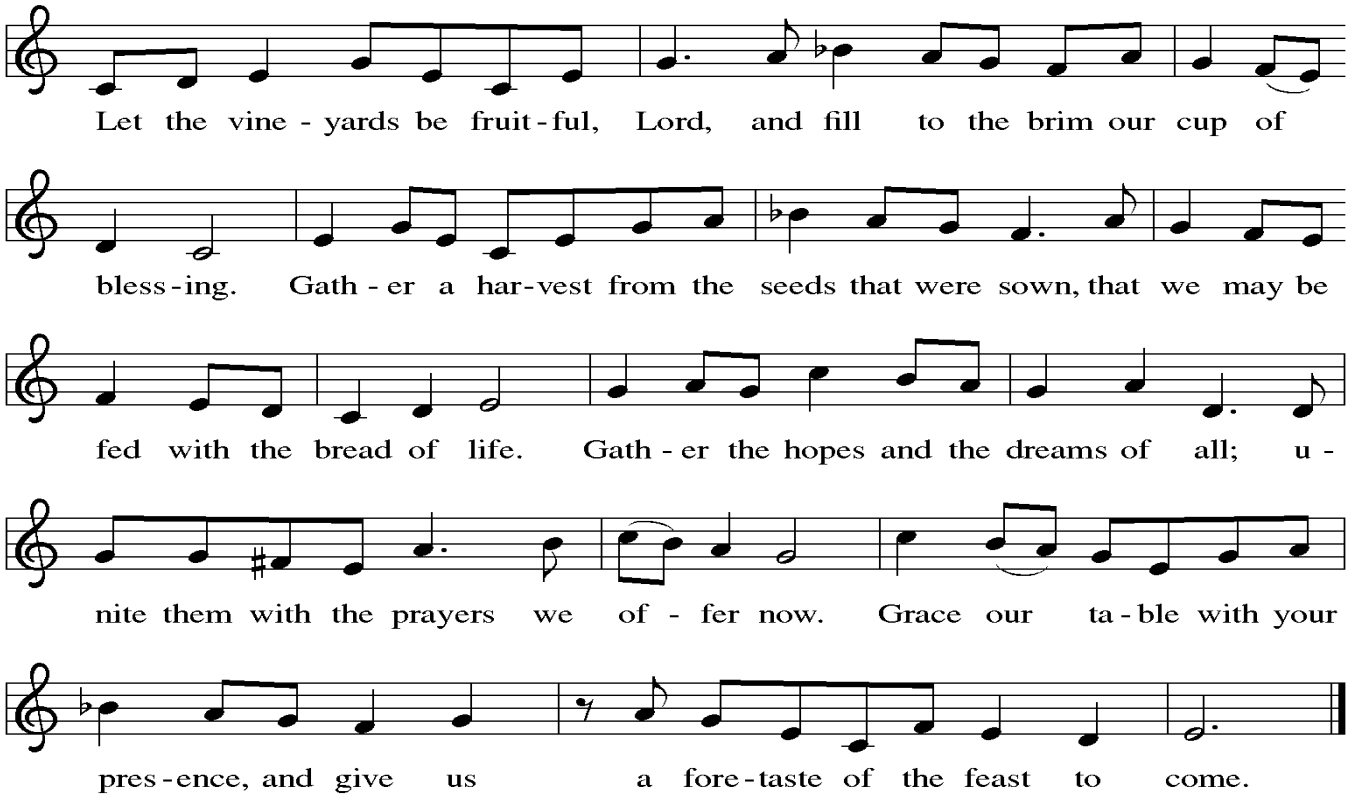
## Offertory

**8:15** **"Jerusalem, My Happy Home"**
(arr. Becki Mayo)

**10:45** **"Let Us Break Bread Together"**
(arr. Donald Busarow)
Michele Boulet, flute

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.**

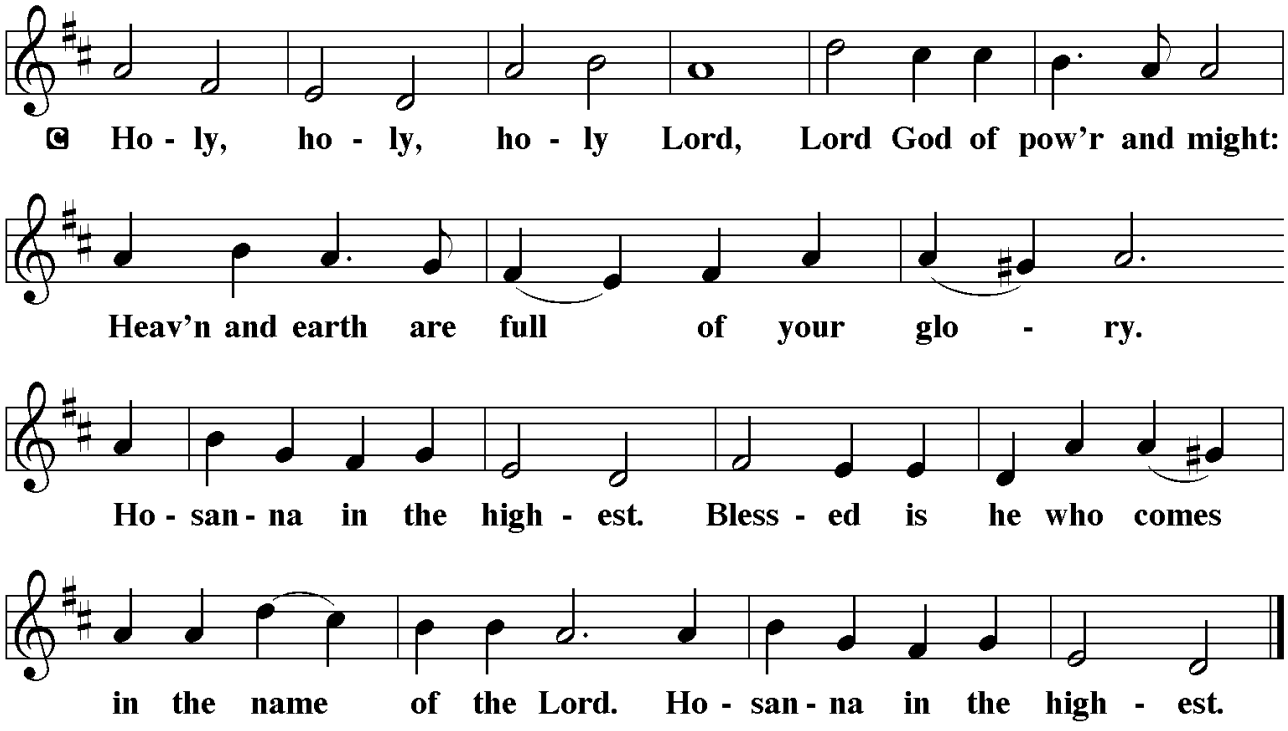
## Great Thanksgiving

*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.*

Blessed are you, O God,
creator of heaven and earth.
You rescued your covenant people,
led them on all their journeys,
and taught them by the prophets.
You so loved the world
that you gave your only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him
may not perish but may have eternal life.

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.

As often as we eat this bread
and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death
until he comes.

**Christ has died.**
**Christ is risen.**
**Christ will come again.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit
in this meal,
and make us one
in this community of faith
and with your people
throughout the world.

Glory and praise to you, O God,
Author of life,
Word made flesh,
Power of the Most High,
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 at 8:15 is at the rail for those who desire.
Communion at 10:45 will be by intinction near the Baptismal Font.

- *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, in this holy communion you have welcomed us into your presence, nourished us with words of mercy, and fed us at your table. Amid the cares of this life, strengthen us to love you with all our heart, serve our neighbors with a willing spirit, and honor the earth you have made; through Christ our 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 "Rise Up, O Saints of God!" #669

**1 Rise up, O saints of God!**
**From vain ambitions turn;**
**Christ rose triumphant that your hearts**
**with nobler zeal might burn.**

**2 Speak out, O saints of God!**
**Despair engulfs earth's frame;**
**as heirs of God's baptismal grace,**
**the word of hope proclaim.**

**3 Rise up, O saints of God!**
**The kingdom's task embrace;**
**redress sin's cruel consequence;**
**give justice larger place.**

**4 Give heed, O saints of God!**
**Creation cries in pain;**
**stretch forth your hand of healing now,**
**with love the weak sustain.**

**5 Commit your hearts to seek**
**the paths which Christ has trod;**
**and, quickened by the Spirit's pow'r,**
**rise up, O saints of God!**

## Dismissal

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

*From Evangelical Lutheran Worship © 2006. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission of Augsburg Fortress under license #SB144012.*

*First 2 readings and the Gospel Reading: New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.*

*The prayers of intercession (printed in each Sunday/festival section) may be reproduced for onetime, non-sale use, provided copies are for local use only and the following copyright notice appears: From* Sundays and Seasons*, copyright © 2026 Augsburg Fortress.*

# BLESSED TO BLESS

| **SERVING TODAY:** | **8:15 AM** | **10:45 AM** |
|---|---|---|
| **ACOLYTE** | Nathaniel Boggs | Owen Lenhart |
| **LECTOR** | Bill Pfeifer | Jean Miller |
| **WORSHIP ASSISTANT** | Kim Woodley | |

**ALTAR GUILD** for September includes Roberta Laciak and Joan Orr.

## PRAYER CONCERNS:

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER** this week Brandie, Suzy, Terry, Doug, Dennis, Barry, Marsha, Ray, Paula, Cameron, Lee, Jerry, Jacob, Lisa, Mark, Jack, Melanie, Mikey, Cindy, Scott, Brody, Ricky, Cade, Sue, Hollie, Kevin, Lori, Deanne, Frank, Sam, Morrie, Michelle, and Mike.

**THE ALTAR FLOWERS** are given in memory of Kip D. Boggs by the Boggs family.

**THE CHANCEL FLOWERS** are given in memory of Pamela Ann Pastoré Errett by her husband, Robert Errett.

**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 Michele Boulet for her musical assistance today.

**WORSHIP ATTENDANCE** last Sunday was 70.

**NOISY OFFERING** for Lutheran Indian Ministries was $174.

**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.

**JAVA TABLE** will be open on the third Sunday of each month between services beginning September 20.

**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.**

**HARVEST HOME SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18** The First Family will celebrate harvest Home on Sunday, October 18 at both worship services. Cornstalks and pumpkins will adorn the sanctuary, and you are asked to bring canned goods and food staples to the church.

Your gifts will help in our Food Pantry with providing food to the needy in our area. "Now thank we all our God!"

# THIS WEEK AT FIRST:

**Sunday – September 20 – Pentecost 17**

8:15 – Worship

9:30 – Sunday School

Continental Breakfast

JAVA Table

10:45 – Worship

> *"...God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us."*
>
> *Romans 5:5*

**Monday – September 21**

Newsletter Deadline

**Wednesday – September 23**

12:00 – Food From the Heart

6:15 – Handbells

**Thursday – September 24**

6:00 – Dinner before Trivia

7:00 – Trivia Night

**Sunday – September 27 – Pentecost 18**

8:15 – Worship

9:30 – Sunday School

Continental Breakfast

10:00 – Choir

10:45 – Worship

**Harrold Zion Lutheran** Church is having a Comedy Matinee show on Sunday, November 15th at 2:00 PM. The title of the show is **Laugh With the Lutherans** and we would love to have our fellow Christians join us for a hilarious afternoon. Two Standup comedians (PG rated) will be provided by SlapStick Comedy Production. Cost is $40 per person which covers admission and food. There will be wine and raffle baskets. Contact Harrold Zion 724 837-7327 for ticket purchase and information.

## Team Trivia Night

*Thursday, September 24, 2026
*If interested, meet for dinner 6PM. Everyone is responsible for buying his/her own dinner.
*Team Trivia begins at 7PM
*Contact person – RSVP to Teresa Graziotto by Monday, September 21, 2026 grazebear@gmail.com or (724) 331 – 7134

Trex Recycling Challenge

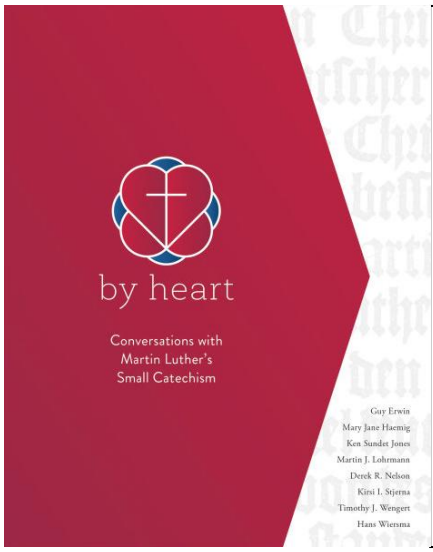
**Plastic Patrol**

Totals to date:

| | |
|---|---|
| Oct-Dec. 2025 | 166 pounds |
| Jan-Mar. 2026 | 253 pounds |
| Apr – Jun 2026 | 252 pounds |
| July – Sept 2026 | 242.8 pounds (as of September 16, 2026) |
| Grand total to date: | 913.8 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.*




### Adult Study

Our Adult Study of Luther's Small Catechism, utilizing *by heart: Conversations with Martin Luther's Small Catechism,* continues on October 19th in the Fellowship Hall. You can join the conversation at either 1:30 pm or 6:00 pm. In October we will focus on Chapter 2, The Ten Commandments.
Books are available in the office. If you are able, we are requesting $15/book to help cover the cost.
Future dates are November 16th and December 14th.

Piano,
Pipes,

Peals &
Premieres

# MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR...

## "Piano, Pipes, Peals, and Premieres"

Sunday, October 18, 2026 at 4:00 PM
First Evangelical Lutheran Church
Greensburg, Pennsylvania

**This free program will be presented by Josh Beck (jazz piano), Marc Tourre (baritone), Kathleen Campbell (alto sax), the FELC Handbell Choir.....AND includes the world premiere of "No Height, No Depth" (in honor of Marvin Huls) by composer Jonathan P. White, AND the re-premiere of "Serenity Prayer" (in honor of FELC member Gwen Irwin's 100th birthday this November) by composer Mark Hayes. Both premieres will be performed by the FELC choir, guest singers, and accompanist Nancy Finke Sheehan.**

**Reception to follow.**

**SPREAD THE WORD!**