

# **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 EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 22, 2024  
8:15 AM and 10:45 AM

## THE WORSHIP SERVICE

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

### GATHERING

Prelude      “March”  
(George Frideric Handel, 1685-1759)

### 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       “Children of the Heavenly Father”       #781**

- 1     Children of the heav'nly Father  
safely in his bosom gather;  
nestling bird nor star in heaven  
such a refuge e'er was given.**
  
- 2     God his own doth tend and nourish,  
in his holy courts they flourish.  
From all evil things he spares them,  
in his mighty arms he bears them.**
  
- 3     Neither life nor death shall ever  
from the Lord his children sever;  
unto them his grace he showeth,  
and their sorrows all he knoweth.**

**4**    **Though he giveth or he taketh,  
God his children ne'er forsaketh;  
his the loving purpose solely  
to preserve them pure and holy.**

### 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.



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.



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, our teacher and guide, you draw us to yourself and welcome us as beloved children. Help us to lay aside all envy and selfish ambition, that we may walk in your ways of wisdom and understanding as servants of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior, and Lord. Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

# WORD

## First Reading

## Jeremiah 11:18-20

<sup>18</sup>It was the Lord who made it known to me, and I knew;  
then you showed me their evil deeds.

<sup>19</sup>But I was like a gentle lamb  
led to the slaughter.

And I did not know it was against me  
that they devised schemes, saying,

“Let us destroy the tree with its fruit,  
let us cut him off from the land of the living,  
so that his name will no longer be remembered!”

<sup>20</sup>But you, O Lord of hosts, who judge righteously,  
who try the heart and the mind,  
let me see your retribution upon them,  
for to you I have committed my cause.

The Word of the Lord.

**R/Thanks be to God!**

## Psalm 54

*(Read Responsively)*

<sup>1</sup>Save me, O God, | by your name;  
in your might, de- | fend my cause.

<sup>2</sup>**Hear my | prayer, O God;**  
**give ear to the words | of my mouth.**

<sup>3</sup>For strangers have risen up against me, and the ruthless  
have | sought my life,  
those who have no re- | gard for God.

<sup>4</sup>**Behold, God | is my helper;**  
**it is the Lord who sus- | tains my life.**

<sup>5</sup>Render evil to those who | spy on me;  
in your faithful- | ness, destroy them.

<sup>6</sup>**I will offer you a | freewill sacrifice**  
**and praise your name, O Lord, for | it is good.**

<sup>7</sup>For you have rescued me from | every trouble,  
and my eye looks down | on my enemies.

## **Second Reading: James 3:13—4:3, 7-8a**

<sup>13</sup>Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. <sup>14</sup>But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. <sup>15</sup>Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. <sup>16</sup>For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. <sup>17</sup>But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. <sup>18</sup>And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.<sup>4:</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? <sup>2</sup>You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. <sup>3</sup>You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures. <sup>7</sup>Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. <sup>8a</sup>Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

The Word of the Lord.

**R/Thanks be to God!**

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

***Alleluia.*** God has called us through the proclamation of the good news, that we may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. ***Alleluia.***

Gospel

**Mark 9:30-37**

P: The Holy Gospel according to Mark the ninth chapter.

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

<sup>30</sup>[Jesus and the disciples went on] and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it;<sup>31</sup>for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, “The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again.” <sup>32</sup>But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

<sup>33</sup>Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, “What were you arguing about on the way?” <sup>34</sup>But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. <sup>35</sup>He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, “Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.” <sup>36</sup>Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, <sup>37</sup>“Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.”

P/The Gospel of the Lord.

R/ Praise to you, O Christ.

## **Youth Sermon (10:45)**

### **Sermon**

#### **HYMN “Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness” #843**

- 1 Praise the One who breaks the darkness  
with a liberating light;  
praise the One who frees the pris'ners,  
turning blindness into sight.  
Praise the One who preached the gospel,  
healing ev'ry dread disease,  
calming storms and feeding thousands  
with the very bread of peace.**



- 2 Praise the One who blessed the children  
with a strong yet gentle word;  
praise the One who drove out demons  
with a piercing, two-edged sword.  
Praise the One who brings cool water  
to the desert's burning sand;  
from this well comes living water  
quenching thirst in ev'ry land.**
- 3 Praise the one true love incarnate:  
Christ, who suffered in our place;  
Jesus died and rose for many  
that we may know God by grace.  
Let us sing for joy and gladness,  
seeing what our God has done.  
Praise the one redeeming glory;  
praise the One who makes us one.**

## **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.*

Drawn together in the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray with confidence for the church, God's good creation, and all who are in need.

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

*The presiding minister concludes the prayers with these words.  
We entrust these and all our prayers to you, holy God, in the name of your beloved child, 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

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

**8:15** "Fugue in C Major" (George Frideric Handel, 1685-1759)

**10:45** "Borning Cry" (John Ylvisaker, arr. Phil Kadidio)

Text: Hymn # 732

**Michele Boulet, flute**

## 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      “Let the Whole Creation Cry”      #876

**1 Let the whole creation cry,  
"Glory to the Lord on high!"  
Heav'n and earth, awake and sing,  
"Praise to our almighty king!"  
Praise God, angel hosts above,  
ever bright and fair in love;  
sun and moon, lift up your voice;  
night and stars, in God rejoice.**



**2 Servants striving for the Lord,  
prophets burning with the word,  
those to whom the arts belong  
add their voices to the song.  
Pow'rs of knowledge and of law,  
to the glorious circle draw;  
all who work and all who wait,  
sing, "The Lord is good and great!"**

**3 Men and women, young and old,  
raise the anthem loud and bold,  
and let children's happy hearts  
in this worship take their parts;  
from the north to southern pole  
let the mighty chorus roll:  
"Holy, Holy, Holy One;  
glory be to God alone!"**

Dismissal

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**Thanks be to God.**

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# BLESSED TO BLESS

## SERVING TODAY:

**LECTORS** are Liz Rowe and Sunshine Keiser.

**WORSHIP ASSISTANT** is Carolyn Hanzel.

## SERVING IN SEPTEMBER:

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

## PRAYER CONCERNS:

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER** this week Brandie, Suzy, Terry, Joyce, Cullen, Doug, Gavin, Dennis, Connie, Larry, Joanne, Marie, Jean, Kelly, Bob, Ian, Becky, Marcee, Todd, David, Reece, Pat, Rachel, Daniel, Jessica and her family, Brenda, Amber, Jenny, Jon, Lilly, Pat, Elmer, Rachel, and for the Huls family on the passing of Shirleys sister.

**THE ALTAR FLOWERS** are given in memory of loved ones by Terry and Charla Keffer.

**THE CHANCEL FLOWERS** are given in memory of Mary Furlong-Leppold by Al Leppold and family.

**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:**

**THANK YOU** to Michele Boulet for her musical assistance today.

**ATTENDANCE** last Sunday was 80.

**CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST** is available today and each Sunday, 9 - 10:30 AM in the fellowship hall.

**CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST** The sign-up calendar and instructions are on the table in the narthex. Please sign up for a Sunday.

**CHOIR** rehearsal today, 10:00 AM.

**NEWSLETTER FOLDING** Tuesday, September 24.

**CHRISTIAN ED/YOUTH** 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).

**HANDBELL CHOIR** Wednesday, 6:15 PM.

**PROPERTY** Wednesday, 6:30 PM.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!** Joanne Cunningham is turning 95 on September 29. If you would like to call or send a card, the family would be grateful for helping in her celebration.

**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.

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

**RUTH CIRCLE** plans to assemble Disaster Relief Buckets in November. Ten buckets of cleaning supplies will be delivered to the UMC distribution center in Cranberry.

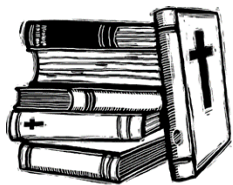
The congregation can help with monetary donations to purchase the required items. Checks can be written to FELC, with Disaster Buckets on the memo line.

All women are welcome to participate in Ruth projects, fellowship and, of course, delicious desserts. Meetings are held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month at 7 pm.



## God's Work Our Hands

### THE PARABLES OF JESUS



**New Bible  
Study Series**

Interested in Jesus' teaching through parables? Join the conversation as we explore some of Jesus' most interesting and challenging teachings.

You have two opportunities each month to join. We will gather at 1:30 PM and 6:00 PM on October 14, November 18, and December 16. Hope to see you there!

### Stewardship Snippets

**James 4:1, 2** – Those conflicts and disputes among you ... do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts.

*James puts his finger on the pulse of human misery. We drive ourselves crazy by craving the things we don't have and envying those who have more than we do! Spiritual maturity and practicing steward/discipleship help bring us sanity.*

*“Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another... .”*

*John 1:11*