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.

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 6, 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 **"Praise to the Lord"** (arr. Anne Krentz, organ)

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 "God When Human Bonds Are Broken" #603

1 God, when human bonds are broken
and we lack the love or skill
to restore the hope of healing,
give us grace and make us still.

2 Through that stillness, with your Spirit
come into our world of stress,
for the sake of Christ forgiving
all the failures we confess.

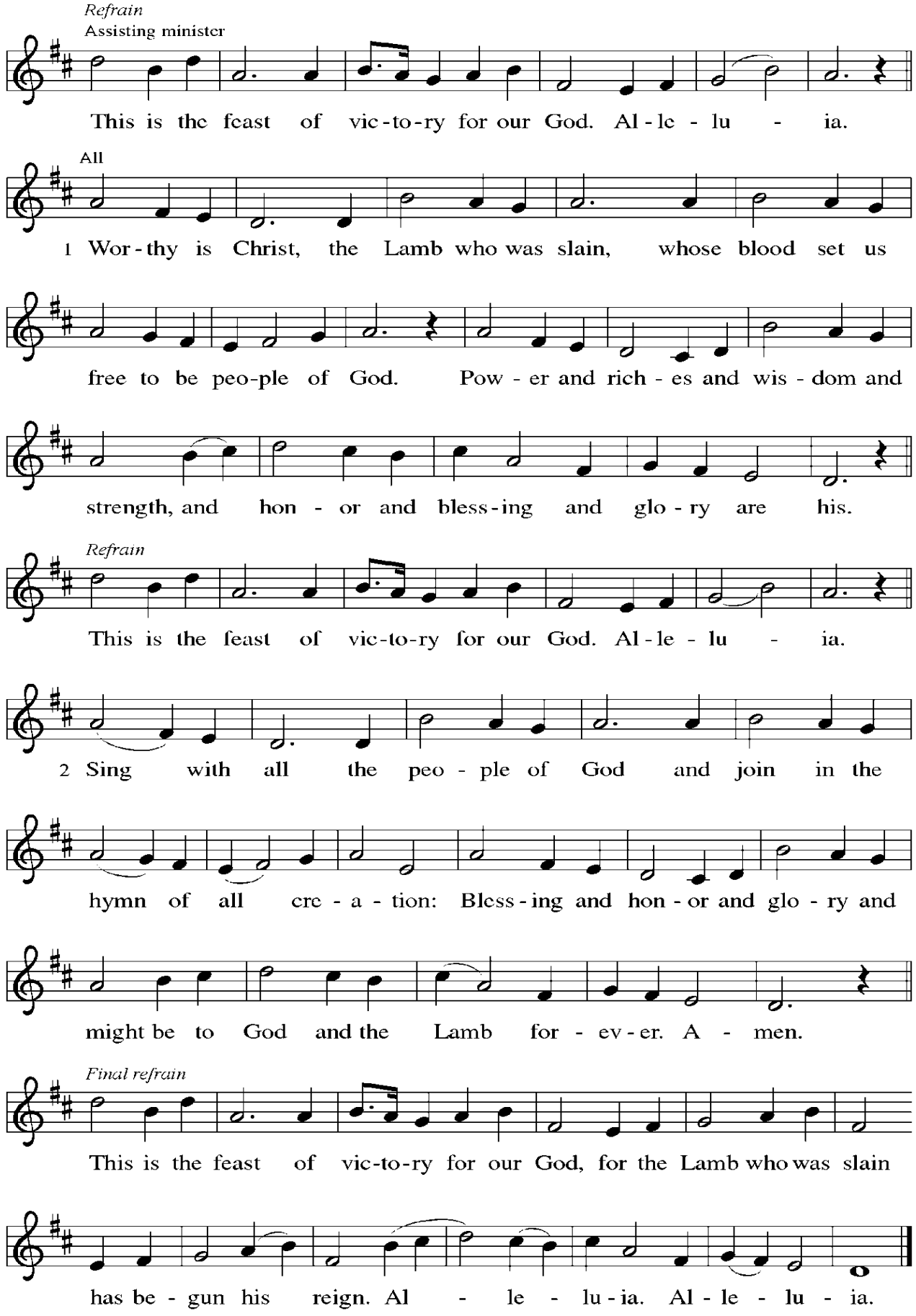
3 You in us are bruised and broken:
hear us as we seek release
from the pain of earlier living;
set us free and grant us peace.

4 Send us, God of new beginnings,
humbly hopeful into life.
Use us as a means of blessing:
make us stronger, give us faith.

5 Give us faith to be more faithful,
give us hope to be more true,
give us love to go on learning:
God, encourage and renew!

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 Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

The assembly is seated.

WORD

First Reading **Ezekiel 33:7-11**

7 So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever
you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from
me. 8 If I say to the wicked, "O wicked ones, you shall surely die," and
you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked
shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. 9 But
if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from
their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved
your life.

10 Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said:
"Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away
because of them; how then can we live?" 11 Say to them, As I live, says the
Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the
wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil
ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?

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

Psalm 119:33-40 *(Read Responsively)*

33 Teach me, O Lord, the way | of your statutes,
and I shall keep it | to the end.
34 **Give me understanding, and I shall | keep your teaching;**
I shall keep it with | all my heart.
35 Lead me in the path of | your commandments,
for that is | my desire.
36 **Incline my heart to | your decrees**
and not to | unjust gain.
37 Turn my eyes from be- | holding falsehood;
give me life | in your way.
38 **Fulfill your promise | to your servant,**
which is for | those who fear you.
39 Turn away the reproach | that I dread,
because your judg- | ments are good.
40 **Behold, I long for | your commandments;**
by your righteousness en- | liven me.

Second Reading **Romans 13:8-14**

8 Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. 9 The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself." 10 Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

11 Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; 12 the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; 13 let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. 14 Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia. **In Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, entrusting the message of reconciliation to us.** ***Alleluia.***

Gospel **Matthew 18: 15-20**

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

R/ Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] 15 "If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. 16 But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. 17 If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. 18 "Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. 19 Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. 20 "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

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

Youth Sermon

Sermon

Hymn "When We Are Living" #639

1 When we are living, it is in Christ Jesus,
and when we're dying, it is in the Lord.
Both in our living and in our dying,
we belong to God, we belong to God.

2 ’Mid times of sorrow and in times of pain,
when sensing beauty or in love’s embrace,
whether we suffer, or sing rejoicing,
we belong to God, we belong to God.

3 Across this wide world, we shall always find
those who are crying with no peace of mind;
and when we help them, or when we feed them,
we belong to God, we belong to God.

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.

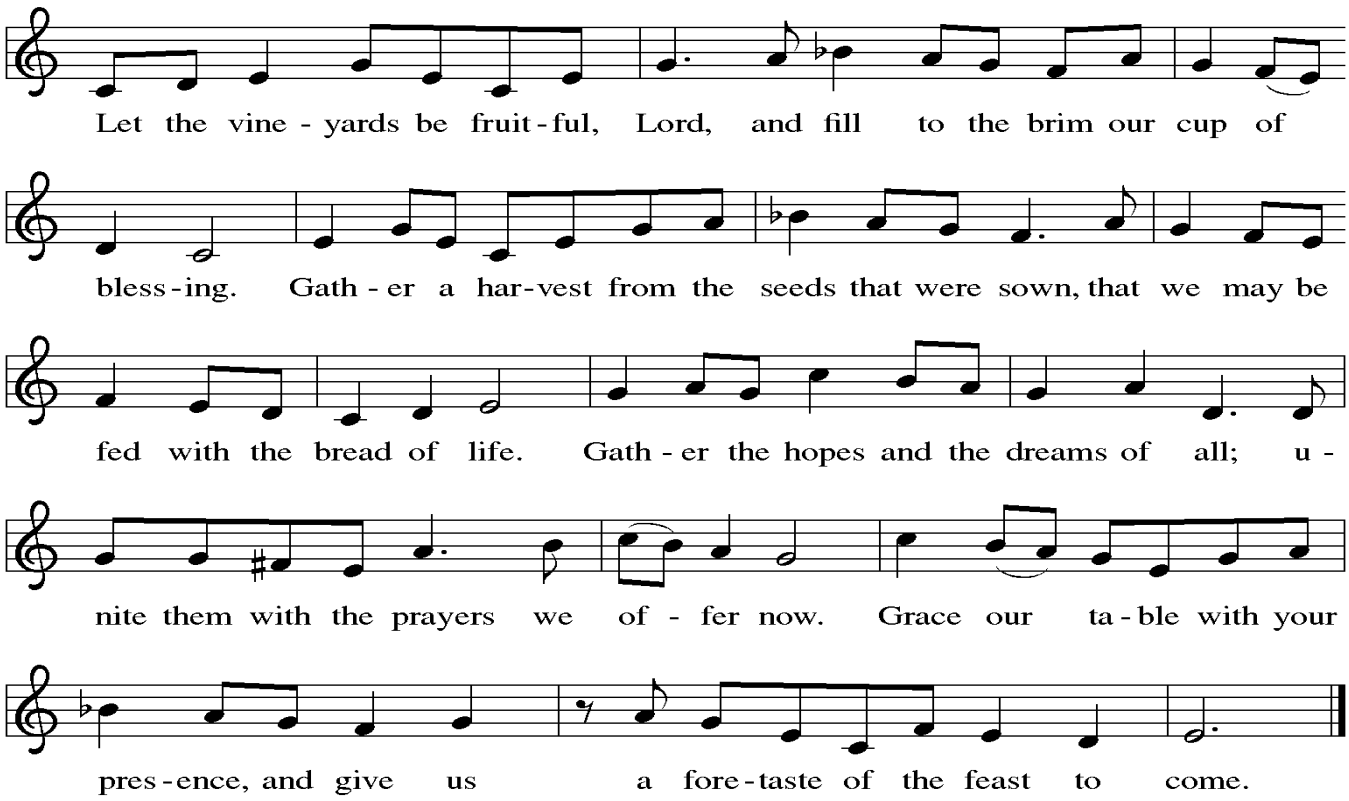
Thank you for your generous support of First's Ministry.

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

Offertory "Morning Has Broken" (Thomas Keesecker)

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.

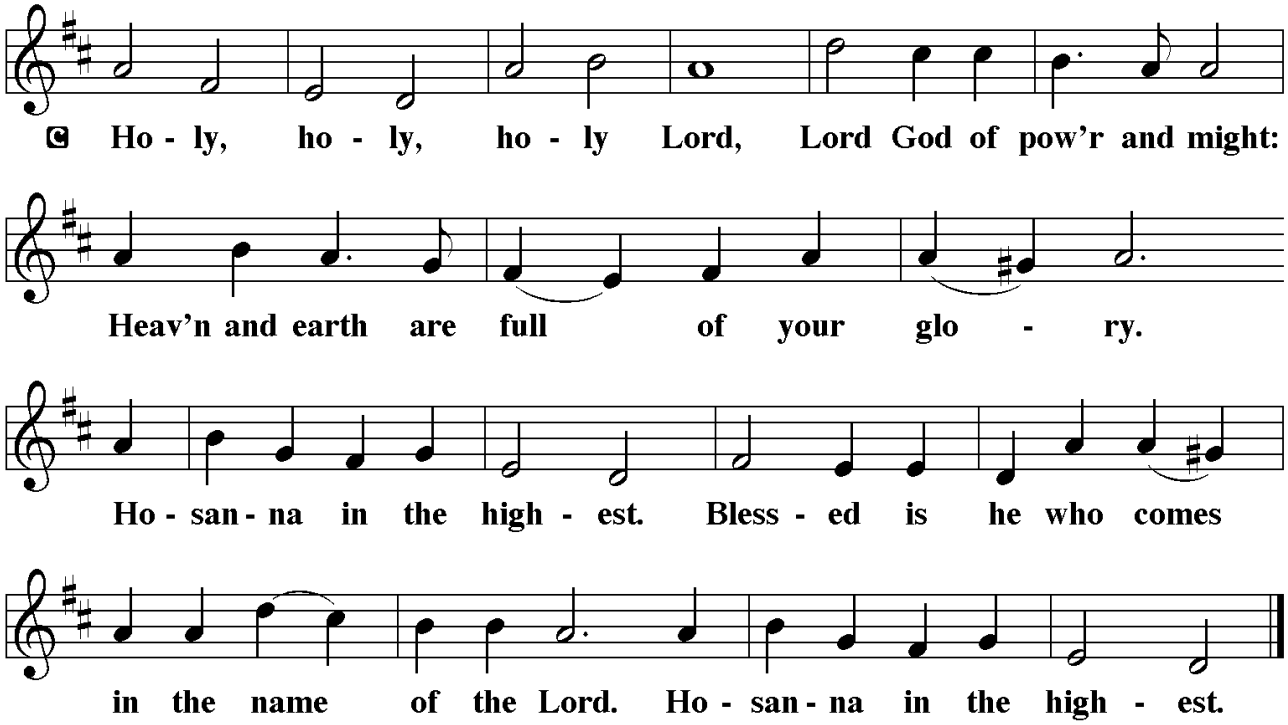
Great Thanksgiving

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 "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee" #836

1 Joyful, joyful we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee,
praising thee, their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
drive the gloom of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day.

2 All thy works with joy surround thee,
earth and heav'n reflect thy rays,
stars and angels sing around thee,
center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale, and mountain,
flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird, and flowing fountain
call us to rejoice in thee.

3 Thou art giving and forgiving,
ever blessing, ever blest,
wellspring of the joy of living,
ocean-depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our brother,
all who live in love are thine;
teach us how to love each other,
lift us to the joy divine!

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 Rachel Boggs

LECTOR Kevin Reilly

WORSHIP ASSISTANT Bud Nusselt

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, Kevin, Paula, Frank, Cameron, Lee, Jerry, Jacob, Lisa, Mark, Jack, Melanie, Mikey, Cindy, Scott, Brody, Ricky, Cade, and the family of Cecelia Bradshaw.

THE ALTAR FLOWERS are given for peace and God by Cindy Bell.

THE CHANCEL FLOWERS are given in memory of mother, Pauline Nelson by Vicki Moyer.

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 Sunday was 68.

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!

CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST begins September 13. Sign up calendar and instructions are on the table in the narthex. Please sign up for a Sunday.

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

RUTH CIRCLE will meet Thursday, September 17 at 7:00 PM in the church parlor. All women of the congregation are invited and welcome to join the fellowship.

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.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST:

Sunday – September 6 – Pentecost 15

NOISY offering for Lutheran Indian Ministries

9:30 – Worship

Monday – September 7

Labor Day – Office closed

Tuesday – September 8

6:00 – Council

Wednesday – September 9

12:00 – Food From the Heart

Saturday – September 12

10:00 – GWOH Cookie Assembly

Sunday – September 13 – Pentecost 16

RALLY DAY

8:15 – Worship

9:30 – Sunday School

Continental Breakfast

10:45 – Worship

Rally Day Luncheon following 10:45 service

GWOH Cookie Tray Delivery

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

Romans 5:5

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

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.

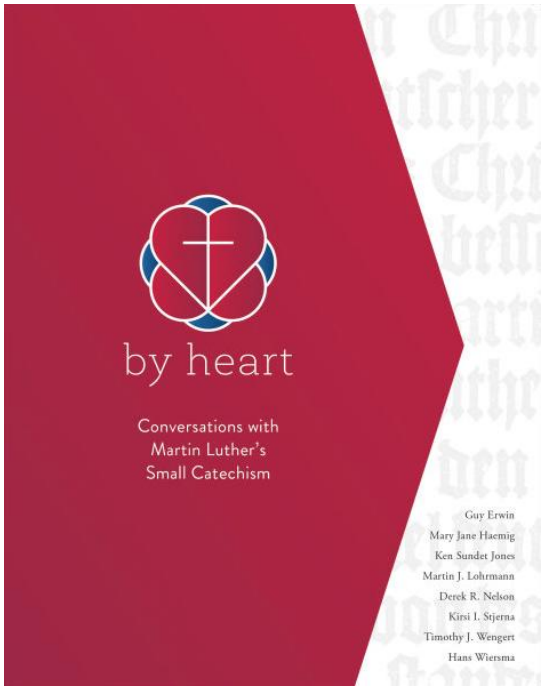
SHARING SPIRIT OF AMERICANS: Our church will be one of 250 partners with the WCFB honoring the sharing spirit of Americans by having a collection for the Food Bank from Sept. 1 to Sept 13 (Rally Day). Any nonperishable food item that is not out of date will be accepted in containers in the Fellowship 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.

Team Firlu's Favorites had a great time with awesome fellowship and laughter at the August trivia night at Pizza Sienna. In fact, another Trivia is planned for **Thursday, September 24** at Pizza Sienna in Greensburg.

Trivia Begins at 7 PM.

Dinner at 6 PM. Everyone is responsible for buying their own dinner.

Contact person: **RSVP** to Teresa Graziotto by Monday, September 21st at 724-331-7134 or grazebear@gmail.com .



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.

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

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.