

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
July 5, 2026

WELCOME

*A warm welcome to visitors who join us today to worship our Risen Lord!
We invite you to pick up a Visitor's Packet as you leave worship today.
Thank you for joining us this morning! We are blessed by your presence.*

Children are always welcome at worship.

*If desired, there is an unstaffed nursery available for parents and their children
on the second floor in the education wing. Take the first left down the hallway, and
the nursery is the first door on your right.*

*Large print bulletins and hearing assistance devices
for today's worship are available.
Please feel free to ask an usher if interested.*

THIS WEEK AT FIRST

July 5 - 12

Sunday	9:30 a.m.	Worship with Holy Communion
Monday	1:00 p.m.	NTT Meeting
Tuesday	9:00 a.m.	Property Committee Meeting
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.	LWR Quilters
Sunday	9:30 a.m.	Worship

GATHERING

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Please stand as you are able.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

His steadfast love endures forever.

We gather with grateful hearts on this anniversary of our nation's founding.

We thank you, O God, for your providence through every generation.

For the freedoms we enjoy and the responsibilities they require,

We give you thanks, O Lord.

For those who dreamed, labored, sacrificed, and served for the common good,

We give you thanks, O Lord.

For the diversity of peoples and cultures who have contributed to our national life,

We give you thanks, O Lord.

For times of prosperity and times of trial, through which you have sustained us,

We give you thanks, O Lord.

When we have pursued justice, shown compassion, and sought peace,

We thank you for your guiding Spirit.

When we have fallen short of your will,

Grant us wisdom, humility, and courage to amend our ways.

O God, you are the Lord of history and the hope of every generation.

Establish us in righteousness and truth.

Bless our homes and communities.

Make us good neighbors and faithful citizens.

Bless our leaders and all who serve the public good.

Grant them wisdom, integrity, and compassion.

Bless our children and those yet unborn.

May they inherit a nation committed to justice, liberty, and peace.

As we remember the past 250 years,

Keep us thankful for your abundant blessings.

As we look toward the next 250 years,

Make us faithful stewards of the future.

May future generations know freedom joined with responsibility,

Courage joined with humility, and prosperity joined with generosity.

May they seek not merely national greatness,

But the greater calling of serving God and neighbor.

Let justice roll down like waters,

And righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

Let peace dwell within our communities,

And goodwill flourish among all people.

For every blessing received and every opportunity before us,

People: We give thanks to you, O God.

Leader: To the One who was, and is, and is to come,

People: Be honor, glory, and praise forever. Amen.

Come, let us worship the Lord.

Praise be to God.

God of Our Fathers

Text: Daniel C. Roberts Music: NATIONAL HYMN, George W. Warren

1 God of our fa - thers, whose al - might - y hand
2 Your love di - vine has led us in the past;
3 From war's a - larms, from dead - ly pes - ti - lence,
4 Re - fresh your peo - ple on their toil - some way;

leads forth in beau - ty all the star - ry band
in this free land by you our lot is cast;
make your strong arm our ev - er sure de - fense.
lead us from night to nev - er - end - ing day;

of shin - ing worlds in splen - dor through the skies:
oh, be our rul - er, guard - ian, guide, and stay;
Your true re - li - gion in our hearts in - crease;
fill all our lives with heav'n - born love and grace

our grate - ful songs be - fore your throne a - rise.
your word our law, your paths our cho - sen way.
your boun - teous good - ness nour - ish us in peace.
un - til at last we meet be - fore your face.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
And the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE



- 1 Come, let us join our cheer - ful songs with an - gels round the throne;
- 2 “Wor - thy the Lamb that died,” they cry, “to be ex - alt - ed thus!”
- 3 Je - sus is wor - thy to re - ceive hon - or and pow’r di - vine;
- 4 Let all cre - a - tion join in one to bless the sa - cred name



ten thou-sand thou-sand are their tongues, but all their joys are one.
“Wor - thy the Lamb,” our lips re - ply, “for he was slain for us!”
and bless-ings, more than we can give, be, Lord, for - ev - er thine.
of God who sits up - on the throne, and to a - dore the Lamb.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Let us pray. **You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, know you, and serve you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Please be seated.

WORD

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READING

Zechariah 9:9-12

⁹ Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!

Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!

See, your king comes to you;
triumphant and victorious is he,
humble and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

¹⁰ He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim
and the war horse from Jerusalem;
and the battle bow shall be cut off,
and he shall command peace to the nations;
his dominion shall be from sea to sea
and from the River to the ends of the earth.

¹¹ As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,
I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.

¹² Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;
today I declare that I will restore to you double.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 145:8-14

⁸ The LORD is gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

⁹ **LORD, you are good to all,
and your compassion is over all your works.**

¹⁰ All your works shall praise you, O LORD,
and your faithful ones shall bless you.

¹¹ **They shall tell of the glory of your kingdom
and speak of your power,**

¹² that all people may know of your power
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

¹³ **Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom;
your dominion endures throughout all ages.
You, LORD, are faithful in all your words,
and loving in all your works.**

¹⁴ The Lord upholds all those who fall
and lifts up those who are bowed down.

SECOND READING

Hebrews 13:1-8

¹ Let mutual affection continue. ² Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. ³ Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them, those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. ⁴ Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterers. ⁵ Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have, for he himself has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." ⁶ So we can say with confidence,

"The Lord is my helper;

I will not be afraid.

What can anyone do to me?"

⁷ Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. ⁸ Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

GOSPEL

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 11th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus spoke to the crowd saying:¹⁶ “To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

¹⁷ ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.’

¹⁸ “For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; ¹⁹ the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

²⁰ Then he began to reproach the cities in which most of his deeds of power had been done because they did not repent. ²¹ “Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the deeds of power done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes.

²² But I tell you, on the day of judgment it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon than for you. ²³ And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven?

No, you will be brought down to Hades.

“For if the deeds of power done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. ²⁴ But I tell you that on the day of judgment it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom than for you.”

²⁵ At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶ yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷ All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸ “Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON

Silence is kept to reflect upon God's message.

PASTORAL PRAYER

Please stand as you are able.

My Country, 'Tis of Thee

Text: Samuel F. Smith Music: NATIONAL ANTHEM, Thesaurus Musicus, London

1 My coun - try, 'tis of thee, sweet land of lib - er - ty,
2 My na - tive coun - try, thee, land of the no - ble free,
3 Let mu - sic swell the breeze, and ring from all the trees
4 Our fa - thers' God, to thee, au - thor of lib - er - ty,

of thee I sing: land where my fa - thers died, land of the
thy name I love; I love thy rocks and rills, thy woods and
sweet free-dom's song; let mor - tal tongues a - wake; let all that
to thee we sing: long may our land be bright with free-dom's

pil - grims' pride, from ev - 'ry moun - tain - side let free - dom ring.
tem - pled hills; my heart with rap - ture thrills like that a - bove.
breathe par - take; let rocks their si - lence break, the sound pro - long.
ho - ly light. Pro - tect us by thy might, great God, our king.

APOSTLES' CREED

**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 INTERCESSION

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

We greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace. The assembly is seated.

MEAL

OFFERING

*An offering is gathered for the mission of the church,
including the care of those in need. Online giving is
available at felcc.org or by scanning this QR code.*



SPECIAL MUSIC

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERTORY



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. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,
and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER

Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever. Amen.

DIALOG

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

And so, with 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-er and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Holy God, our Maker, Redeemer, and Healer,
in the harmonious world of your creation
the plants and animals, the seas and stars
were whole and well in your praise.

When sin had scarred the world, you sent your Son to heal our ills
and to form us again into one.

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 acts of healing
his body given up, and his victory over death,
we await that day when all the peoples of the earth
will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life.

Send your Spirit upon us and this meal:
as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread,
so let your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth,
that all may be fed with the Bread of life, your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church, both 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

Heaven has come near. Come, share in the feast!
Thanks be to God.

Please be seated.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

***Communion:** All Christians who believe that Jesus is truly present in the bread (body of Christ) and in the wine (blood of Christ) are welcome at the Lord's table. To receive Holy Communion, please come down the center aisle, take a glass (the prefilled glasses contain grape juice), and gather at the altar. Non-communing children and adults may come forward for a blessing.*

LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



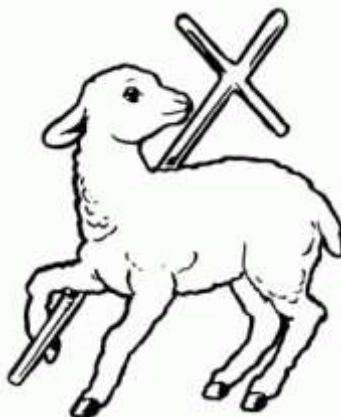
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.



Nearer, My God, to Thee

Text: Sarah F. Adams Music: Lowell Mason

1. Near - er, my God, to Thee, Near - er to Thee, E'en though it
 2. Though like the wan - der - er, The sun gone down, Dark - ness be
 3. *There let the way ap - pear, Steps un - to heav'n; All that Thou
 4. Then, with my wak - ing tho'ts Bright with Thy praise, Out of my
 5. Or if, on joy - ful wing Cleav - ing the sky, Sun, moon, and

be a cross That rais - eth me! Still all my song shall be:
 o - ver me, My rest a stone; Yet in my dreams I'd be
 send - est me, In mer - cy giv'n; An - gels to beck - on me
 ston - y griefs **Beth - el I'll raise; So by my woes to be
 stars for - got, Up - ward I fly, Still all my song shall be:

Near - er, my God, to Thee; Near - er, my God, to Thee, Near - er to Thee.
 Near - er, my God, to Thee; Near - er, my God, to Thee, Near - er to Thee.
 Near - er, my God, to Thee; Near - er, my God, to Thee, Near - er to Thee.
 Near - er, my God, to Thee; Near - er, my God, to Thee, Near - er to Thee.
 Near - er, my God, to Thee; Near - er, my God, to Thee, Near - er to Thee.

TABLE BLESSING

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

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. **Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever. Amen.**

SENDING

ECHARISTIC MINISTERS

Gracious God, in this season after Pentecost, as we sense the working of the Holy Spirit among us, assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are *sick or homebound*. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament. Give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father,
✠ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and always.
Amen.

Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory

Text: Julia Ward Howe Music: BATTLE HYMN, American



1 Mine eyes have seen the glo - ry of the com - ing of the Lord;
2 He has sound - ed forth the trum - pet that shall nev - er call re - treat;
3 In the beau - ty of the lil - ies Christ was born a - cross the sea,



he is tram - pling out the vin - tage where the grapes of wrath are stored;
he is sift - ing out the hearts of men be - fore his judg - ment seat.
with a glo - ry in his bo - som that trans - fig - ures you and me.



he has loosed the fate - ful light - ning of his ter - ri - ble swift sword:
Oh, be swift, my soul, to an - swer him; be ju - bi - lant, my feet!
As he died to make men ho - ly, let us live to make men free,



his truth is march - ing on.
Our God is march - ing on.
while God is march - ing on.

Refrain



Glo - ry, glo - ry! Hal - le - lu - jah! Glo - ry, glo - ry! Hal - le - lu - jah!



Glo - ry, glo - ry! Hal - le - lu - jah! His truth is march - ing on.

DISMISSAL

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God
in loving memory of Doyle Paul
by Dalton and Julie Paul

Please remember in your prayers ...

Healing: Beth Johnson (7/16), **Dot Hammer** (7/07),
Bob Hockensmith (7/22), Alvino Long (7/28), **Bill Nienstedt**
(7/30), **Kristy Nienstedt** (7/30), **Dalton Paul** (7/09), Chuck Salter (7/11).



Continuing Prayers: Madeline Artman, **Joanne Caskey**, **June Diehl**,
Harold Forrester, **Charles Kampmeyer**, **Julie Paul**, **Connie Wilkins**

Military: Tawny & Brad Arnold, **Hunter Boock**, Derek Haugh

ATTENDANCE June 28 (Outdoor Worship) 45 in person 0 online

NEIGHBORHOOD TASK TEAM will be having a meeting in the Parlor on
Monday, July 6 at 1:00 p.m. Always interested in new people and new ideas.

LAUNDRY DAY will be Saturday, July 18.
Come and join us in sharing the joy of helping others.
Contact: Joyce Ray at 717-658-6077.



STAINED GLASS GIVING Work is happening on the stained glass windows.
The final bill balance of \$59,000 is coming due soon. Thank you to those who
have given generously.



BACK TO SCHOOL EVENT Join us on Saturday, August 8 from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. as we distribute socks and underwear to elementary age young people in our community. Please contact Mary Beth Warne McGraw at 717-372-8282 to let her know of your interest.

GOD’S WORK. OUR HANDS Our WELCA members put together Personal Care Kits to send to LWR each year. With the help of an Action Team Grant from Thrivent our goal this year is to put 100 health kits together. A health kit consists of a bath towel, sturdy comb, nail clipper, two bars of soap and an adult toothbrush. We are asking members of First to contribute 4 oz. bars of soap and toothbrushes. On a Sunday in September our youth and church members will assemble these health kits in the Fellowship Hall at 9:30 a.m. We are hoping everyone can help with this project.



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STREET CLOSURE Washington Street will be closed between First Lutheran Parking Lot entrance and Southgate traffic light for an extended period. Construction will begin in July.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL St. Luke Lutheran Church (2695 Luther Drive; Chambersburg) has invited First Lutheran Children, ages 5-11 to join them for VBS this summer. The theme is Champions for Christ. VBS will be from 6 to 8 p.m. July 26-30. Preregistration is required. There is no cost. Call 717-261-1213 for questions or to register. Join us for an exciting week of faith, fun, and fellowship!



MINI GOLF SCRAMBLE Join Christians in central PA to support Hogar Miguel Orphanage in Guatemala. (Associated with Tree-4-Hope). The scramble will be fun for all ages and abilities including children. It is being held on Saturday, August 29 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Challenge Family Fun Center located at 366 Middletown Rd. Hummelstown, PA. This family-friendly event is a fun twist on the traditional golf scramble and is designed for everyone. Participants will enjoy a day of mini golf, fellowship, lunch, and a chance to win some great prizes. Scan the QR code to register.





VENEZUELA HELP Two powerful earthquakes have struck Venezuela. Countless families are without shelter, safety or access to necessities. Lutheran Disaster Response is responding through long-standing partners in the region including the Lutheran World Federation and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Venezuela. These partners are working to identify urgent needs, and coordinate a plan for long-term assistance. To contribute financially to these efforts, make a check payable to First Lutheran and write Venezuela on the memo line or the envelope and place in the offering plate. Or you are welcome to send the check directly so it arrives sooner. In that case make checks payable to: Lutheran Disaster Response; P.O. Box 1809; Merrifield, VA 22116-8009. Thank you for your care.

SCAN (Student Clothing Assistance Network) Working with the social workers of the school district, SCAN volunteers fill emergency requests for clothing and school supplies. When a request is received, it is assigned to volunteers to acquire the necessary items, either through purchase or donation. When requests are received the need is urgent. The children involved are in crisis situations—domestic upheaval, homelessness, unexpected relocations. Please contact Tim or Mary: 717-264-4759, 717-491-0611, tim@gotwald.org, mary@gotwald.org Thank you for considering.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

	<u>July 5</u>	<u>July 12</u>	<u>July 19</u>
Lector:	Becky Hoover	Sally Herritt	Jane Love
Communion	Jim Brown		Jim Brown
Assistants:	Deb Fleegal Karen Sloan		Deb Fleegal Karen Sloan
Greeters:	Bob Wildeson Nancy Wildeson	Gary Kennedy Marianne Kennedy	Gary Kennedy Marianne Kennedy
Altar Guild:	Barb Evans	Barb Evans	Barb Evans
Ushers:	Volunteers	Volunteers	Volunteers



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717-264-2015

Pastor
Pastoral Assistant
Director of Church Music
Parish Administrator
Treasurer
Financial Secretary
Technical Lead
Custodian

The Rev. Jane Nicholson
The Rev. Charles Kampmeyer
Freda J. Dorand, Deacon
Ashley Hessong
Sally Herritt
Carol McCoy
Daniel Worcester
Jennifer Flores

Church Office Hours – Monday - Thursday 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

We welcome visitors this morning.

Please pick up a **visitor's packet**. They are located at the top of the steps.
at the rear of the church or on the table at the elevator entrance.

Our Mission

The mission of First Lutheran Church is to be the light of Jesus,
burning brightly and vigorously in our community.

Worship Schedule

Worship at 9:30 a.m.

also on Facebook at First Evangelical Lutheran Church
and on our webpage at www.FELCC.org

ALL are invited to hear and receive God's blessing in Jesus,
and to worship with us.