

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
July 19, 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 19 - 26**

Sunday	9:30 a.m.	Worship with Holy Communion Social Missions Meeting following Worship
Monday	1:00 p.m.	MOW Meeting Room 1
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.	LWR Quilters
Sunday	9:30 a.m.	Worship Orchestra Sunday

GATHERING

WELCOME

PRELUDE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Please stand as you are able.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
whose compassion endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,
we confess to you all our sins.
Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves.
In your mercy, call us back to you.
Your yoke is easy and your burden is light.
Restore us to dwell in your peace.
In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

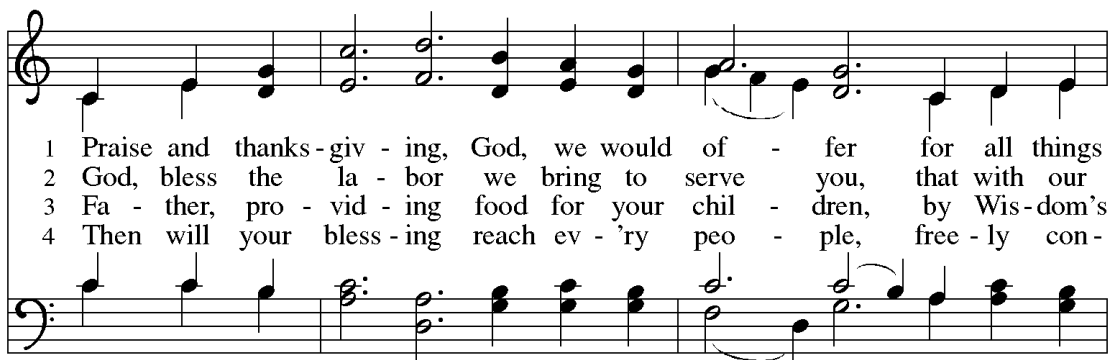
Jesus says, "Come to me,
all you who are weary
and are carrying heavy burdens,
and I will give you rest."

In the name of God,
Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,
your sins are forgiven.
Rest in God's love. **Amen.**

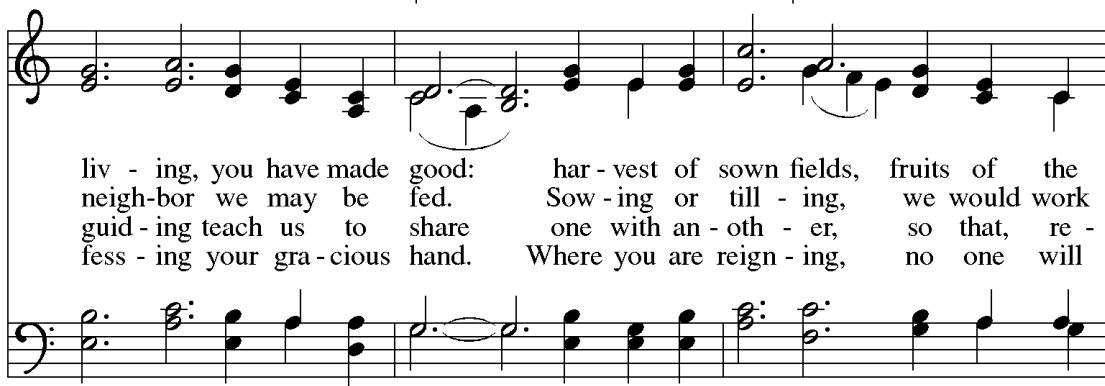
Praise and Thanksgiving

Text: Albert F. Bayly

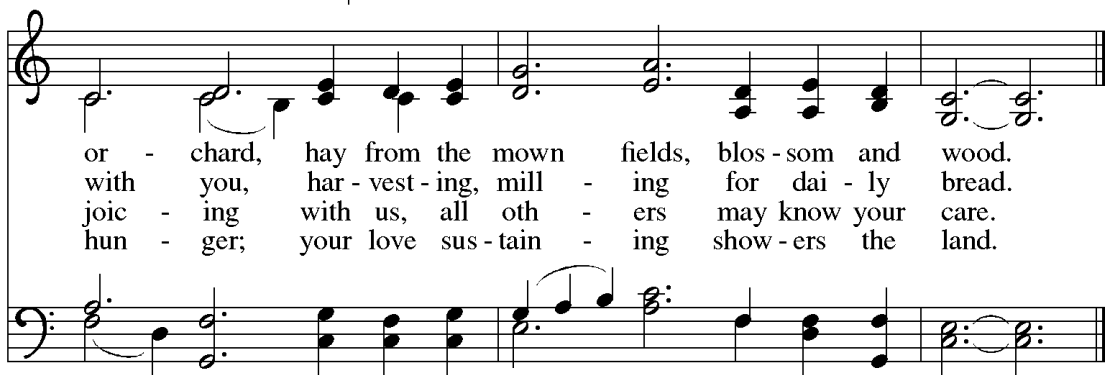
Music: BUNESSAN, Gaelic tune; arr. hymnal version



1 Praise and thanks-giv-ing, God, we would of-fer for all things
2 God, bless the la-bor we bring to serve you, that with our
3 Fa-ther, pro-vid-ing food for your chil-dren, by Wis-dom's
4 Then will your bless-ing reach ev-'ry peo-ple, free-ly con-



liv-ing, you have made good: har-vest of sown fields, fruits of the
neigh-bor we may be fed. Sow-ing or till-ing, we would work
guid-ing teach us to share one with an-oth-er, so that, re-
fess-ing your gra-cious hand. Where you are reign-ing, no one will



or-chard, hay from the mown fields, blos-som and wood.
with you, har-vest-ing, mill-ing for dai-ly bread.
joic-ing with us, all oth-ers may know your care.
hun-ger; your love sus-tain-ing show-ers the land.

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. **Faithful God, most merciful judge, you care for your children with firmness and compassion. By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Please be seated.

WORD

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READING

Isaiah 44:6-8

⁶ Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel,
and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts:
I am the first, and I am the last;
besides me there is no god.
⁷ Who is like me? Let them proclaim it;
let them declare and set it forth before me.
Who has announced from of old the things to come?
Let them tell us what is yet to be.
⁸ Do not fear or be afraid;
have I not told you from of old and declared it?
You are my witnesses!
Is there any god besides me?
There is no other rock; I know not one.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 86:11-17

¹¹ Teach me your way, O LORD, and I will walk in your truth;
give me an undivided heart to revere your name.
¹² **I will thank you, O Lord my God, with all my heart,
and glorify your name forevermore.**
¹³ For great is your love toward me;
you have delivered me from the pit of death.
¹⁴ **The arrogant rise up against me, O God,
and a band of violent people seeks my life;
they have not set you before their eyes.**

¹⁵ But you, O Lord, are gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger, and full of kindness and truth.

¹⁶ **Turn to me and have mercy on me;
give your strength to your servant, and save the child of your handmaid.**

¹⁷ Show me a sign of your favor, so that those who hate me may see it and
be put to shame; because you, LORD, have helped me and comforted me.

SECOND READING

Romans 8:12-25

¹² So then, brothers and sisters, we are obligated, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—¹³ for if you live according to the flesh, you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶ it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs: heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if we in fact suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

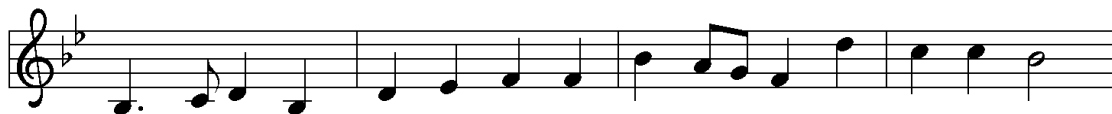
¹⁸ I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God, ²⁰ for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its enslavement to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning together as it suffers together the pains of labor, ²³ and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what one already sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

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 13:24-30, 36-43

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 13th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²⁴ Jesus put before the crowds another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field,²⁵ but while everybody was asleep an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and then went away. ²⁶ So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. ²⁷ And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ ²⁸ He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ ²⁹ But he replied, ‘No, for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. ³⁰ Let both of them grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’ ”

³⁶ Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” ³⁷ He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; ³⁸ the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, ³⁹ and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰ Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹ The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, ⁴² and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!”

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

Please be seated.

SERMON

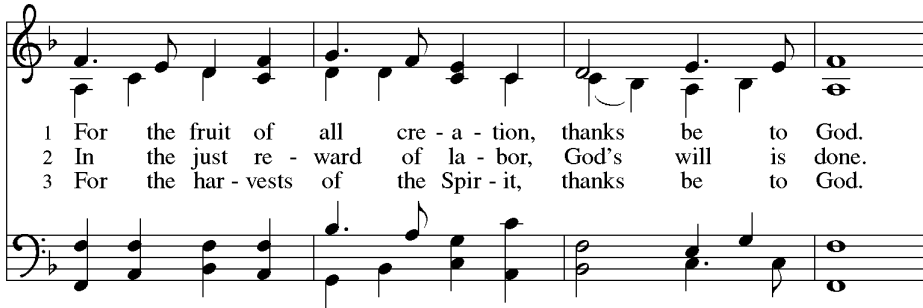
Silence is kept to reflect upon God's message.

PASTORAL PRAYER

Please stand as you are able.

For the Fruit of All Creation

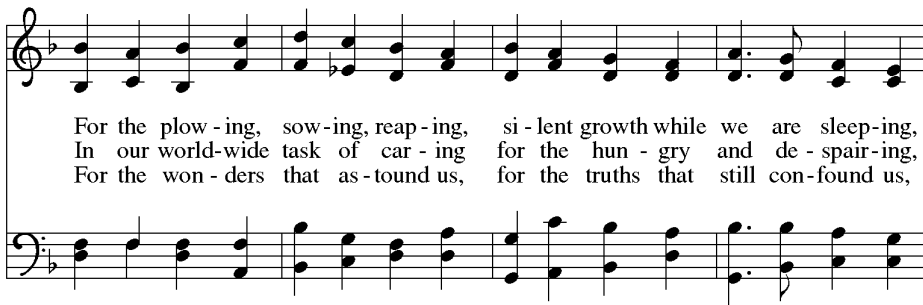
Text: Fred Pratt Green Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams



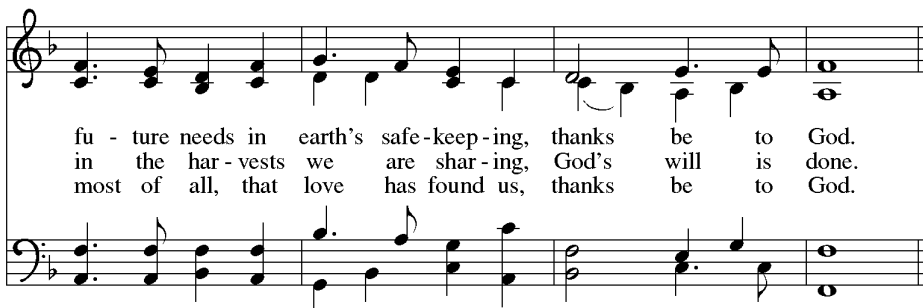
1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.
2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.
3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For these gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, thanks be to God.
In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.
For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,
In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,
For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,



fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.
in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.
most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

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.

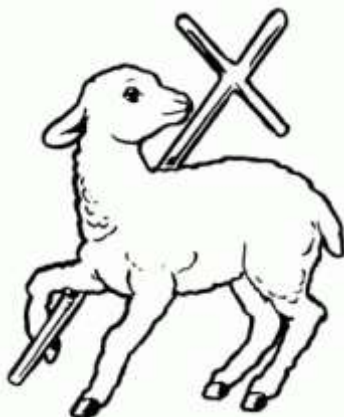
Please be seated.

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.



O God, Whose Word Well-Planted

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr. Music: ABIDING PRESENCE, Stephen P. Folkemer, b.

1 O God, whose word well-plant - ed yields fruit a hun - dred - fold,
2 O God of seed and har - vest, of sun and soil and rain,
3 O God, your fi - nal har - vest of his - t'ry's an - cient field

we praise your grac - es grant - ed to those who sowed of old,
at - tend the word we sow, lest its plant - ing be in vain.
will test with truth the proud - est that hu - man work can yield.

who by their wit - ness scat - tered good seed up - on the soil
Send show - ers of your Spir - it, bright sun - shine of your grace,
Op - pres - sion's blight will van - ish, fair free - dom's fruits in - crease;

where oth - ers, reap - ing, gath - ered the har - vest of their toil.
that mul - ti - tudes who hear it your gos - pel may em - brace.
and love and joy will flour - ish to clothe the earth with peace.

TABLE BLESSING

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

Amen.

As the Grains of Wheat

Text: Didache, 2nd cent. Marty Haugen, b. Music: AS THE GRAINS

Refrain



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were



gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from



all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.



1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst,
2 Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when



Refrain



may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

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, Amen.**

BLESSING

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

Sing to the Lord of Harvest

Text: John S. B. Monsell Music: WIE LIEBLICH IST DER MAIEN, Johann Steurlein



1 Sing to the Lord of har - vest your songs of love and praise;
2 God makes the clouds drop fat - ness, the des - erts bloom and spring,
3 Bring to this sa - cred al - tar the gifts his good-ness gave,



with joy - ful hearts and voic - es your al - le - lu - ias raise;
the hills leap up in glad - ness, the val - leys laugh and sing,
the gold - en sheaves of har - vest, the souls Christ died to save.



by him the roll - ing sea - sons in fruit - ful or - der move;
God fills them with his full - ness, all things with large in - crease,
Your hearts lay down be - fore him when at his feet you fall,



sing to the Lord of har - vest a joy - ous song of love.
and crowns the year with good - ness, with plen - ty and with peace.
and with your lives a - dore him who gave his life for all.

DISMISSAL

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news! **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

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Please remember in your prayers ...

Healing: Healing: Cathy Beam (8/15), Bob Hockensmith (7/22),
Marcia Hunt (8/6), Alvino Long (7/28), **Don Mayer** (8/6),
Bill Nienstedt (7/30), **Kristy Nienstedt** (7/30).



Grieving: Family and Friends of Bob Herbert
Family and Friends of Mary Wingert
Family and Friends of Connie Wilkins

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

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

ATTENDANCE July 12 50 in person 18 online

SOCIAL MISSIONS COMMITTEE MEETING will follow worship today.

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF KITS It's the time of year to gather items for our school kits and layettes. The following are needed: crayons (boxes of 16/24), blue or black ink pens (no gel), blunt scissors, and notebooks (sheets of 70). A list of items and a collection box is outside the office. Items need to be collected by October 1.

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.





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.

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



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.

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

STAINED GLASS GIVING Work is completed on the stained glass windows. Contributions are still being accepted for this project. Thank you to all who have given so generously.



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.



WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

	<u>July 19</u>	<u>July 26</u>	<u>August 2</u>
Lector:	Jane Love	Gary Fleegal	Joyce Ray
Communion	Jim Brown		Karen Sloan
Assistants:	Deb Fleegal Gary Fleegal		Gerry Wilson Rose Wilson
Greeters:	Gary Kennedy Marianne Kennedy	Gary Kennedy Marianne Kennedy	Becky Hoover
Altar Guild:	Barb Evans	Barb Evans	Barb Evans
Ushers:	Volunteers	Volunteers	Volunteers



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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.