

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 6, 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 September 6 – September 13

Sunday	9:30 a.m.	Worship with Holy Communion
Monday		OFFICE CLOSED HAPPY LABOR DAY!
Tuesday	1:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	NTT Meeting in Parlor Scouts Deadline for ALIVE Registration
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.	LWR Quilters
Thursday	1:00 p.m.	WELCA Meeting
Sunday	9:30 a.m. 10:45 a.m.	God's Work. Our Hands in NTT Room Worship & Bible Presentation with lunch to follow

GATHERING

WELCOME & PRELUDE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Please stand as you are able.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who pours love into our hearts
and healing upon the earth.

Amen.

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith,
let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,
**we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness
in the world and in our own hearts.
Creation groans from overuse.
Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships.
Indifference keeps us from seeking justice.
Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others.
Turn our hearts back to you.
Restore our world and reconcile us to one another.
Renew us to live as your holy people,
following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

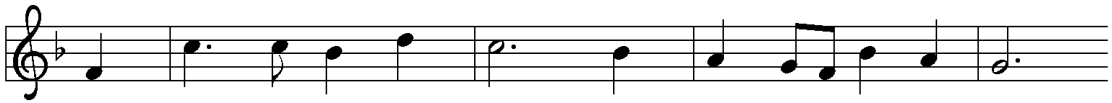
Hear this good news:

We have peace with God through † Jesus Christ,
in whom there is no condemnation,
but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life.
Receive freely this healing gift of grace.

Amen.

Oh, Praise the Gracious Power

Text: Thomas H. Troeger, b. Music: CHRISTPRAISE RAY, Carol Doran, b.



- 1 Oh, praise the gra - cious pow'r that tum - bles walls of fear
- 2 Oh, praise per - sis - tent truth that o - pens fist - ed minds
- 3 Oh, praise in - clu - sive love, en - cir - cling ev - 'ry race,
- 4 Oh, praise the word of faith that claims us as God's own,
- 5 Oh, praise the tide of grace that laps at ev - 'ry shore



and gath - ers in one house of faith all strang - ers far and near:
and eas - es from their anx - ious clutch the prej - u - dice that blinds:
ob - liv - i - ous to gen - der, wealth, to so - cial rank or place:
a liv - ing tem - ple built on Christ, our rock and cor - ner - stone:
with vi - sions of a world at peace, no lon - ger bled by war:

Refrain



We praise you, Christ! Your cross has made us one!

- 6 Oh, praise the pow'r, the truth,
the love, the word, the tide.
Yet more than these, oh, praise their source,
praise Christ the crucified: *Refrain*
- 7 Oh, praise the living Christ
with faith's bright songful voice!
Announce the gospel to the world
and with these words rejoice: *Refrain*

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.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

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.

Refrain



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.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. **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.**

Please be seated.

WORD

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

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?

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalms 119:33-40

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 beholding 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 judgments are good.

⁴⁰ **Behold, I long for your commandments;
by your righteousness enliven me.**

SECOND READING

Romans 13:8-14

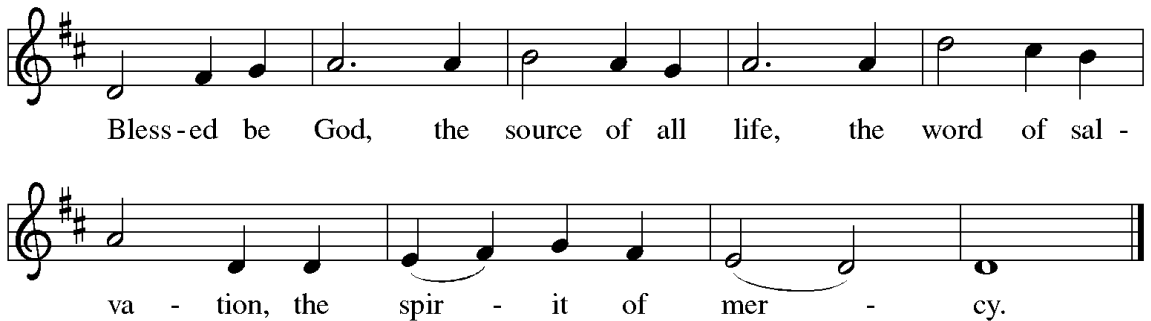
⁸ Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹ The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; you shall not murder; you shall not steal; you shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “You shall love your neighbor 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 already 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 throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³ let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex 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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL

Matthew 18:15-20

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 18th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to the disciples: ¹⁵ “If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, 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 that person 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.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON

Following the sermon silence is kept for reflection.

PASTORAL PRAYER

Please stand as you are able following the prayer.

Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive

Text: Rosamond E. Herklots Music: DETROIT, The Sacred Harp, Philadelphia



- 1 “For - give our sins as we for - give,” you taught us, Lord, to pray;
- 2 How can your par - don reach and bless the un - for - giv - ing heart
- 3 In blaz - ing light your cross re - veals the truth we dim - ly knew:
- 4 Lord, cleanse the depths with - in our souls and bid re - sent - ment cease;



but you a - lone can grant us grace to live the words we say.
that broods on wrongs and will not let old bit - ter - ness de - part?
how tri - fling oth - ers' debts to us; how great our debt to you!
then, by your mer - cy rec - on - ciled, our lives will spread your peace.

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

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

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. During the summer months, please place your offering in the plates at the entrances to worship.



ANTHEM

Please stand as you are able.

Refrain



The Refrain is written on a single staff in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The melody consists of the following notes: D4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), F#4 (half), G#4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G#4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (half), and C#4 (half). The notes are grouped into four measures: the first measure contains D4, E4, and F#4; the second measure contains G#4, A4, and B4; the third measure contains A4, G#4, and F#4; and the fourth measure contains E4, D4, and C#4.

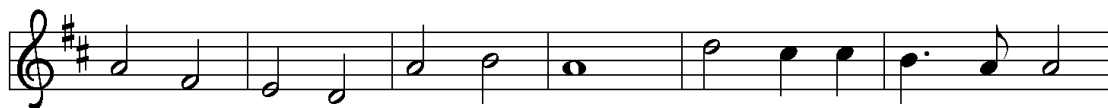
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PREFACE

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 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, Lord God of pow'r 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.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

O God most mighty, O God most merciful,
O God our rock and our salvation,
hear us as we praise, call us to your table, grant us your life.

When the earth was a formless void,
you formed order and beauty.
When the Israelites were enslaved,
you led them to freedom.
Ruth faced starvation, David fought Goliath,
and the psalmists cried out for healing,
and full of compassion, you granted the people your life.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup,
gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

O God, you are Breath: send your Spirit on this meal.
O God, you are Bread: feed us with yourself.
O God, you are Wine: warm our hearts and make us one.
O God, you are Fire: transform us with hope.

O God our strength and our song,
you show us a vision of a tree of life
with fruits for all, and leaves that heal the nations.
Grant us such life, the life of the Father to the Son,
the life of the Spirit of our risen Savior,
life in you, now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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

Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them.

Come to this meal of mercy.

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



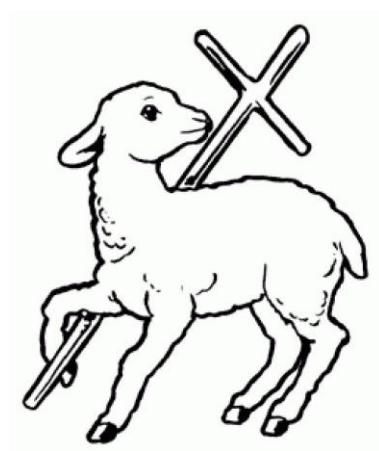
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



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

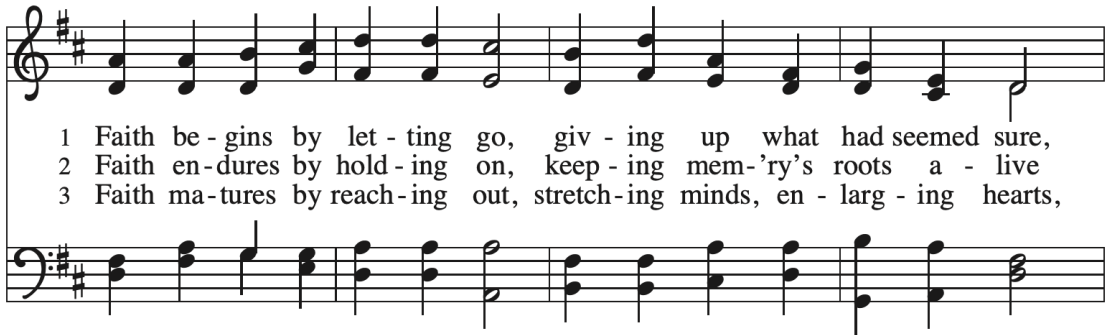


sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

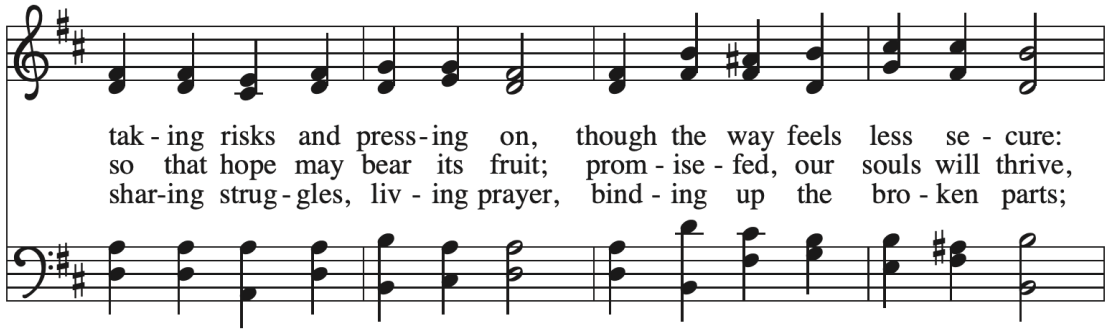


Faith Begins By Letting God

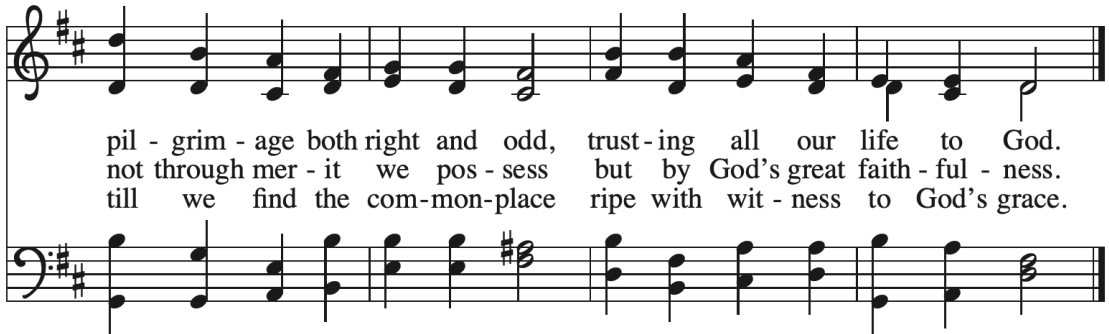
Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. Music: RATISBON, J.G. Werner, Choralbuch



1 Faith be - gins by let - ting go, giv - ing up what had seemed sure,
2 Faith en-dures by hold - ing on, keep - ing mem-'ry's roots a - live
3 Faith ma-tures by reach-ing out, stretch-ing minds, en - larg - ing hearts,



tak - ing risks and press-ing on, though the way feels less se - cure:
so that hope may bear its fruit; prom - ise - fed, our souls will thrive,
shar-ing strug - gles, liv - ing prayer, bind - ing up the bro - ken parts;



pil - grim - age both right and odd, trust-ing all our life to God.
not through mer - it we pos - sess but by God's great faith - ful - ness.
till we find the com-mon-place ripe with wit - ness to God's grace.

TABLE BLESSING

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

SENDING

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Gracious God, in this season after Pentecost, as the Holy Spirit leads and guides 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

May the God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus.

Amen.

May the God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit.

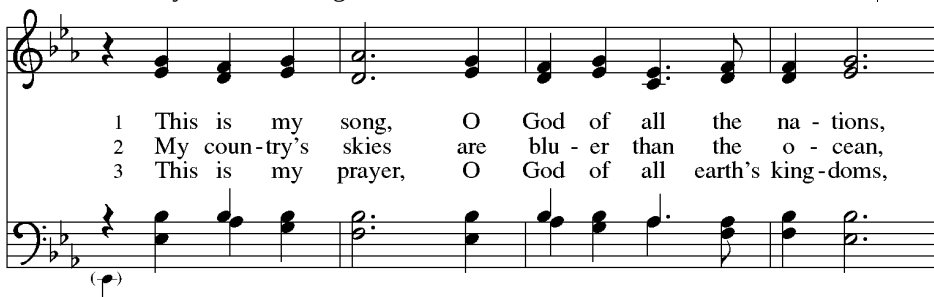
Amen.

May the God of grace ☩ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

This Is My Song

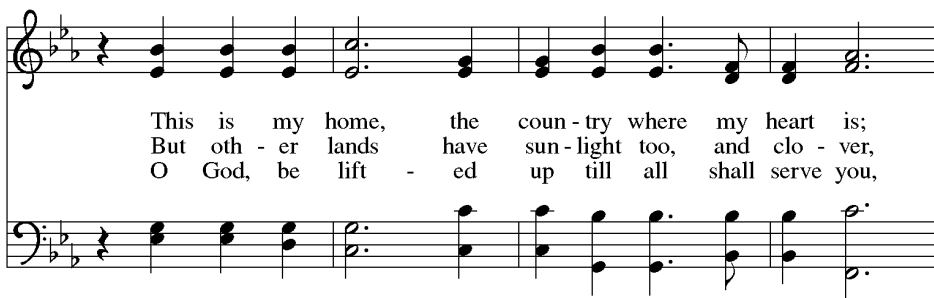
Text: Lloyd Stone, Georgia Harkness Music: FINLANDIA, Jean Sibelius



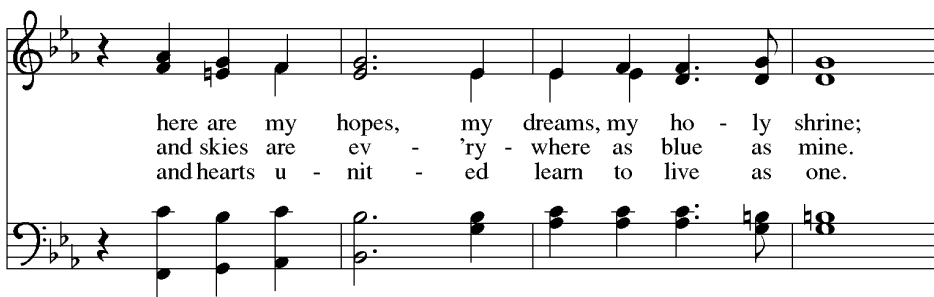
1 This is my song, O God of all the na - tions,
 2 My coun - try's skies are blu - er than the o - cean,
 3 This is my prayer, O God of all earth's king - doms,



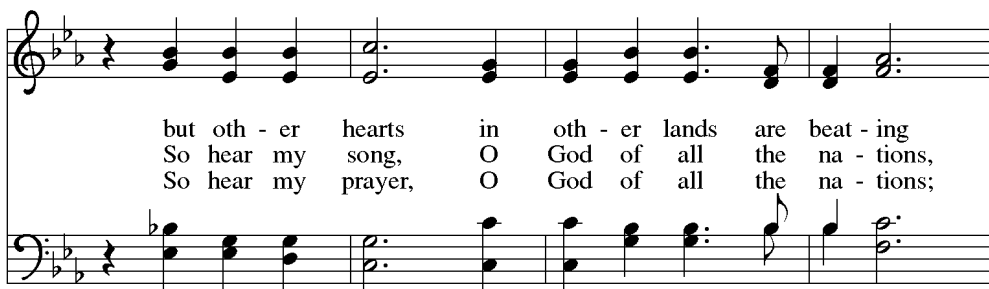
a song of peace for lands a - far and mine.
 and sun - light beams on clo - ver - leaf and pine.
 your king - dom come; on earth your will be done.



This is my home, the coun - try where my heart is;
 But oth - er lands have sun - light too, and clo - ver,
 O God, be lift - ed up till all shall serve you,



here are my hopes, my dreams, my ho - ly shrine;
 and skies are ev - 'ry - where as blue as mine.
 and hearts u - nit - ed learn to live as one.



but oth - er hearts in oth - er lands are beat - ing
 So hear my song, O God of all the na - tions,
 So hear my prayer, O God of all the na - tions;



with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.
 a song of peace for their land and for mine.
 my - self I give you; let your will be done.

DISMISSAL

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

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Please remember in your prayers ...

Healing: Tony Gladfelter (9/26), **Kristy Nienstedt** (10/1),
 Albert Sloan (9/16)

Continuing Prayers: **Joanne Caskey, June Diehl, Harold Forrester,**
Marcia Hunt, Charles Kampmeyer, Don Mayer, Dalton Paul, Julie Paul

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



ATTENDANCE August 30 52 in person 12 online

WORSHIP and SUNDAY SCHOOL Worship will be at 10:45 on Sunday, September 13. Children's Sunday School will also begin that morning at 9:30. Adult Sunday School will convene on September 20.

BIBLE PRESENTATION Bibles will be presented to our third graders during worship on September 13. If you have a third grader who would like to receive a Bible, please contact the church office.

BIBLE STUDY Written in the first century, **The Book of Romans** describes the good news of God's powerful salvation for all humanity, for all creation, for all time. Through Christ, God is reclaiming the world from the power of sin. He is justifying and saving us from sin and death. Paul's letter to the Romans declares that, in the end, absolutely nothing can separate us from God's love! Bible Study on the Book of Romans is at 1:00 p.m. each Monday from September 14 through October 12. Sign-up sheet is on the board by the main office. You are welcome to attend as few or as many sessions as you are able. If you miss one or two, the next session will still make sense. Facilitator: Pastor Nicholson.



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 Sunday, September 13 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 Thank you for considering.

9/11 SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE Please join us on Friday, September 11 from 7:30-8:00 a.m. for the “25th Anniversary”, located at Historic Letterkenny Chapel and Franklin County Veterans and 9/11 Memorial Park at 2171 Carbaugh Ave. Letterkenny Army Depot, Chambersburg, PA. As we remember the sacrifice of those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001 and honor our First Responders and Military who serve our community daily.

GRIEF SHARE at Christian Life Church located at 1400 Warm Spring Rd. Chambersburg is hosting a ‘Loss of Spouse’ seminar on September 12 from 10 to noon. A “Surviving the Holidays” seminar will be offered on November 14 from 10 to noon. There is no cost. Contact Lisa Fidler at 717-404-3599 with questions. Register: <https://christianlifechambersburg.churchcenter.com/registrations/events>

MIDDLE SCHOOL RETREAT **September 25-27**



**Alive 2026
RHYTHM**
Learn More & Register at
bit.ly/lssalive

Join us Sept. 25th-27th
for a beautiful fall
weekend at Camp
Nawakwa for ALIVE,
the annual LSS Jr. High
Youth Retreat!

Enjoy great music
played by the ALIVE
Band, incredible
speakers, fun games,
engaging small groups,
and enjoy God's
creation with our
welcoming
community!

Come and join the ALIVE retreat in which our youth from across the synod gather at Nawakwa for an incredible weekend. We are hoping to bring a group from First Lutheran. Please indicate your interest to Pastor Nicholson by Tuesday, September 1 if possible. Registration forms and non-refundable \$50 deposit are due to church by Tuesday, September 8. The church budget and the youth savings account will cover the rest of the cost of the retreat for each youth. We are also in need of someone to attend as an adult chaperone. You will need to have clearances to serve in this volunteer position. The cost for our chaperone will be covered by the church.



September 6

Lector: Jane Love
Communion Jim Brown
Assistants: Rose Wilson
Greeters: Bob Hammer
Dot Hammer
Altar Guild: Barb Evans
Ushers: Jim Brown
Rose Wilson

September 13

Gary Fleegal

Bob Hammer
Dot Hammer
Barb Evans
Jim Brown
Rose Wilson

September 20

Sally Herritt
Jim Brown
Rose Wilson
Bob Hammer
Dot Hammer
Barb Evans
Jim Brown
Rose Wilson



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FELCCoffice@gmail.com
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.