Reformation Sunday
October 25, 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
October 25 – November 1

Sunday	9:15 a.m.	Coffee and Donuts
	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:45 a.m.	Reformation Sunday with Holy Communion
Monday	7:00 p.m.	Scouts
Tuesday	5:00 p.m.	BellFest Meeting Room 1
	6:30 p.m.	Scouts
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.	LWR Quilters
Thursday	6:00 p.m.	Hand Bells
	7:15 p.m.	Choir
Sunday	9:15 a.m.	Coffee and Donuts
	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:45 a.m.	All Saints Worship with Holy Communion
		Hats, Scarves, Mittens hanging on the fence

GATHERING

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Please stand as you are able and face the rear entrance of the sanctuary.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever.

There is one Body and one Spirit;
There is one hope in God's call to us;

One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;
One God and Father of all.

Blessed be God who sustains and protects his Holy Church.
And blessed be God who guides and confirms us in our faith.
Amen. Alleluia!

A Mighty Fortress is Our God

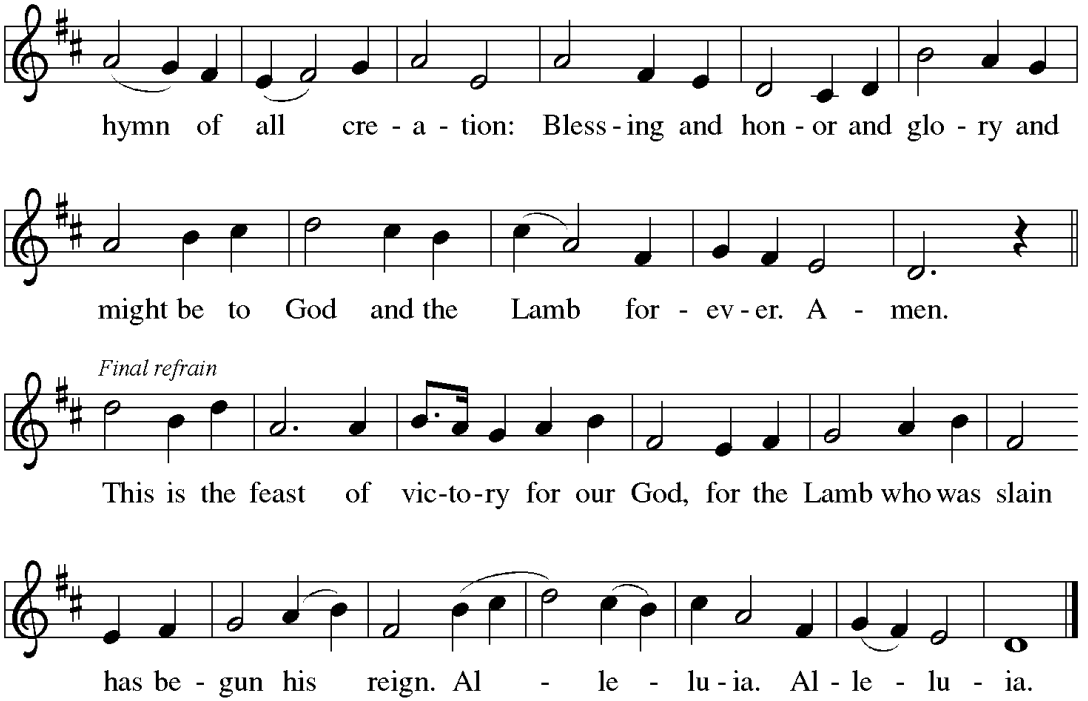
Music and Text: Martin Luther 1483-1546

to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and
ject - ed. But now a cham-pion comes to fight, whom
vour us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they
fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with
wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe
God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?
can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage;
weap-ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,
has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might
The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,
in bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;
goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched a - way,
he arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.
God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.
God's judg-ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.
they can - not win the day. The king-dom's ours for - ev - er!

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



PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Let us pray. **Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Please be seated.

WORD

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READING **Jeremiah 31:31-34**

31 The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant
with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. 32 It will not be like the covenant
that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of
the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says
the LORD. 33 But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after
those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on
their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 34 No longer shall
they teach one another or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all
know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD, for I will forgive
their iniquity and remember their sin no more.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM **Psalm 46**

1 God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

2 **Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,**
and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;

3 though its waters rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

4 **There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,**
the holy habitation of the Most High.

5 God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken;
God shall help it at the break of day.

6 **The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake;**
God speaks, and the earth melts away.

7 The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

8 **Come now, regard the works of the LORD,**
what desolations God has brought upon the earth;

9 behold the one who makes war to cease in all the world;
who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields with fire.

10 **"Be still, then, and know that I am God;**
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth."

11 The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

SECOND READING — Romans 3:19-28

19 Now we know that, whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world may be held accountable to God. 20 For no human will be justified before him by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

21 But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed and is attested by the Law and the Prophets, 22 the righteousness of God through the faith of Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, 23 since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; 24 they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; 26 it was to demonstrate at the present time his own righteousness, so that he is righteous and he justifies the one who has the faith of Jesus.

27 Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. Through what kind of law? That of works? No, rather through the law of faith. 28 For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able.

Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth 1827,1878, alt. Music: ERHALTUNS, HERR J. KLUG, 1543

GOSPEL **John 8:31-36**

The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 8th chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

[1]Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; [32]and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." [33]They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free'?"

[34]Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. [35]The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. [36]So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."

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

Please be seated.

SERMON

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

PASTORAL PRAYER *Written by Martin Luther*

O Lord, support us all the day long of this troubled life, until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes and the busy world is hushed, the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then, in your mercy, grant us a safe lodging, and a holy rest, and peace at the last, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Please stand as you are able.

Faith of Our Fathers

Text: Frederick W. Faber Music: ST. CATHERINE, Henri F. Hemy; James G. Walton

APOSTLE'S CREED

Let us confess our faith in God.

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.

Please be seated.

APOSTLES' CREED

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creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
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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

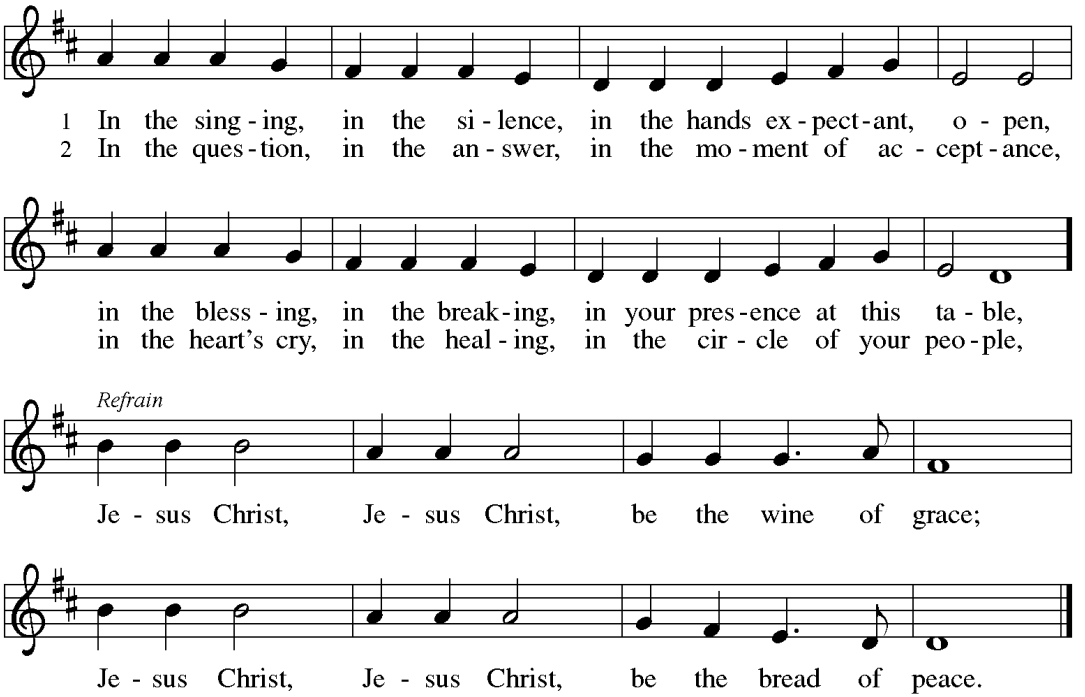
OFFERING

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.

OFFERTORY



OFFERING PRAYER

God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly.
All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have.
Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you
and in love to our neighbors, today and always. Amen.

DIALOG

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

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

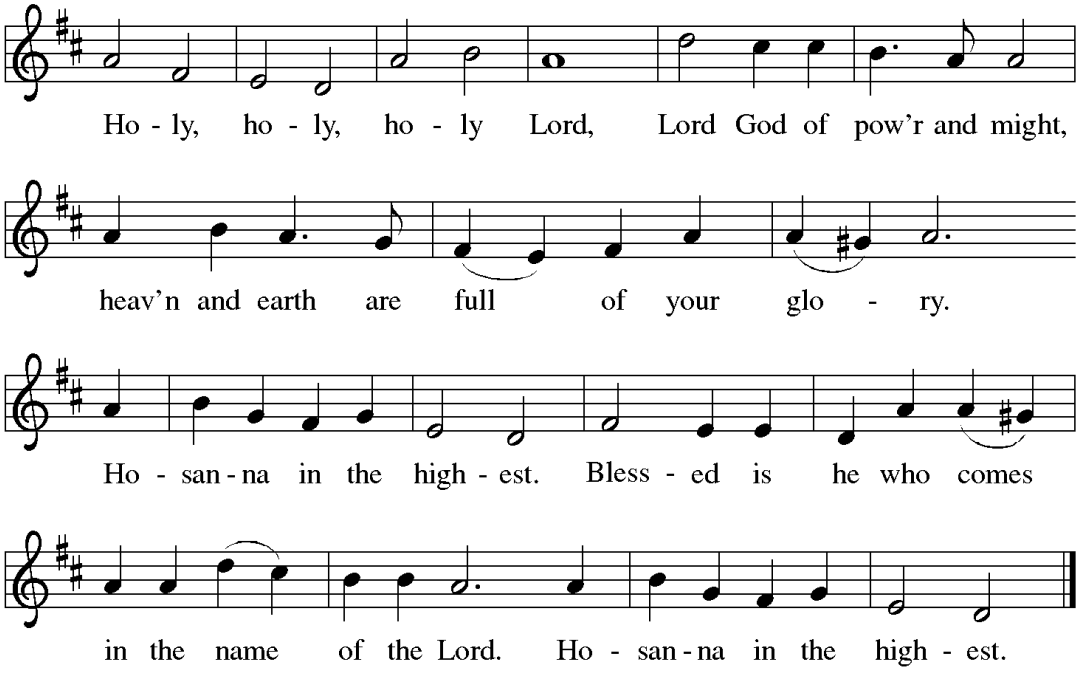
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

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 Martin Luther and the glorious company of the saints,
with the choirs of angels and all the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

We praise you, all-holy God,
for the waters of Wittenberg and for flowers in our rose garden.

We praise you for centuries of faithful Christians,
for Peter and Paul, for Luther, Melanchthon, and Muhlenberg,
for Bach, Kierkegaard, and Bonhoeffer,
for all servants of Reformation.

We praise you, O God, for Jesus Christ,
who saves us from all sin and evil.

In the night before 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.
And so we remember your Son, Jesus,
his life, his death, and his glorious resurrection.

We pray, O God, for your Spirit,
your breath, your fire, your wisdom,
your law, your grace, your freedom.

Bless this meal and all those who share it;
inspire your people for service;
continue the reformation of your church.

We praise you, all-holy God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
Mighty Fortress, Victorious Champion, Powerful Shield,
today, tomorrow, 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

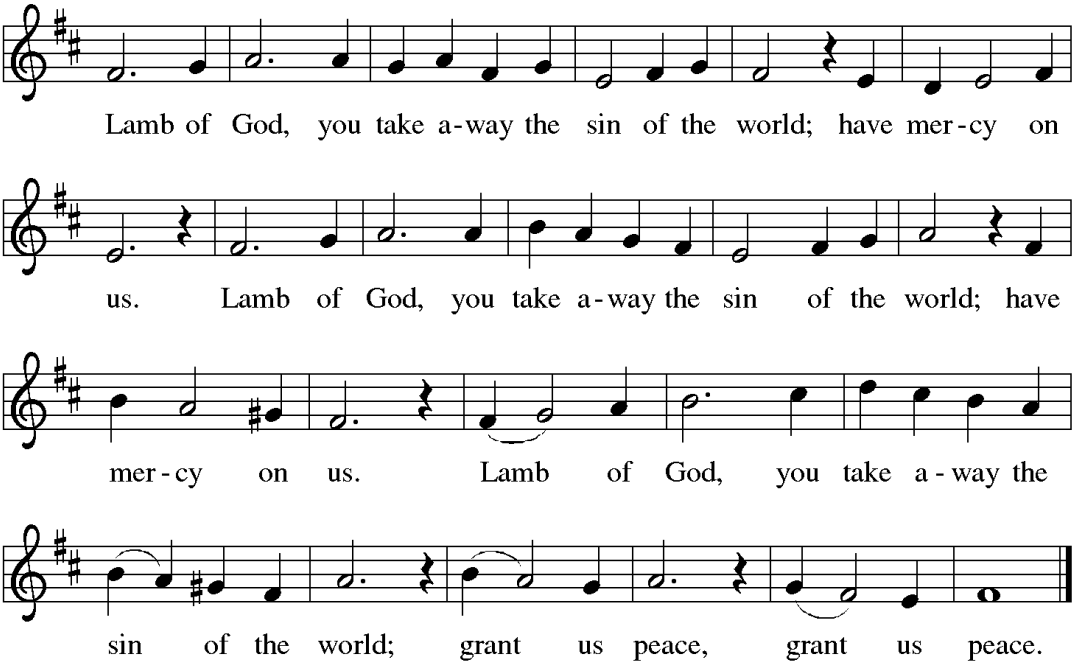
Christ invites you to this table.
All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!
Thanks be to God.

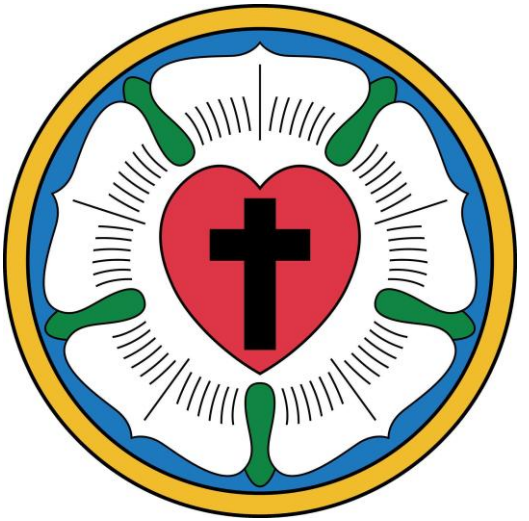
Please be seated.

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.



Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Text: Charles Wesley Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard

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

BLESSING

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

The Church's One Foundation

Text: Samuel J. Stone Music: AURELIA, Samuel S. Wesley

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

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Altar Flowers are given in honor of Bob's 95th Birthday and in Memory of our Daughter, Daurie on her 68th Birthday by Dot Hammer.

Please remember in your prayers …

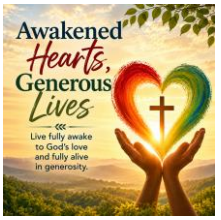
Healing: **Shirley Martin** (11/7)

Continuing Prayers: **Doris Burdick, Joanne Caskey, June Diehl**, **Marcia Hunt, Charles Kampmeyer**, **Don Mayer**, **Kristy Nienstedt**, **Dalton Paul**, **Julie Paul, Peggy Stout**

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

ATTENDANCE October 18 60 in person 26 online

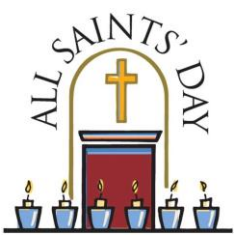
PASTORAL CARE Pastor Nicholson will be gone through October 27. If you are in need of pastoral care during this time, you are invited to contact Pastors Denise and Martin Horn at 717-496-5372.



THANK YOU to all who have returned their anticipated giving card during our *Awakened Hearts, Generous Lives* stewardship campaign. To date we have received 27 cards. We are still receiving cards. You are welcome to place your card in the offering plate or mail to the church office.

QUILTS SHIPPING COST On October 11 we were blessed with seeing the 142 quilts and 248 kits which were dedicated during our worship service. The cost to ship each item overseas is approximately $4.00. Donations to assist with this would be appreciated. Please indicate on your envelope or check that your donation is for Quilt and Kit Shipping. Thanks you for your contribution.

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2026 If you have a loved one who has entered the church triumphant between November 1, 2025 and October 31, 2026 whom you would like to have remembered by name on All Saints Sunday, please contact the church office by today and include the spelling of the name, and date of death if available. felccoffice@gmail.com



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL is at 9:30 a.m. Sunday mornings with Tim Gotwald teaching from the book, "Honoring Our Neighbor's Faith: A Lutheran Perspective on Faith Traditions in America." Join us on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. in the Parlor.

HATS SCARVES AND MITTENS hanging time is here again the Neighborhood Task Team is planning to hang items on the church fence that will help our neighbors stay warm in the winter months. New or gently used hats, scarves and mittens for men, women and children are appreciated. Volunteer to hang items on the fence on November 1, December 6, and January 16-18. Contact Mary Beth Warne McGraw at 717-372-8282.

COUNCIL NOMINATIONS First Lutheran Church is in need of persons who are willing and able to serve on the Congregation Council from January 1, 2027 through December 31, 2029. Please pray about serving in this leadership capacity. If you are feeling called to serve on our governing body, please speak with Marianne Kennedy, Gerry Wilson, or Jeff Dorand or another council member.

RECEIVING NEW MEMBERS First Lutheran will be receiving new members on Sunday, December 13 during the 10:45 worship service. If you have an interest in or questions about becoming a member of First Lutheran, please speak with Pastor Nicholson.

BIRTHDAY BAGS bring joy to Little Daisy's Closet recipients! Supplies needed: large birthday bags, paper plates, napkins, balloons, candles, cake pans, cake mixes, icings, and snack items. Thank you for your support! Joyce Ray

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING First Lutheran will be having a congregational meeting on Sunday, November 22 following the 10:45 worship service. The purpose of this meeting is to elect council members to serve a three year term beginning January 1, 2027, receive an update on the building usage, and to vote on revisions to the constitution as recommended by the congregation council and the ELCA. The constitutional revisions may be found online at www.felcc.org under 'resources.' Anywhere there are highlights, means that revisions are recommended. Printed copies of the constitutional revisions are available in the church office and will be available at the entrances to the worship space on November 8.

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

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

	October 25	November 1	November 8
Lector:	Joyce Ray	Becky Hoover	Gary Fleegal
Communion Assistants:	Mary Gotwald Tim Gotwald Karen Sloan	Donna Ross Mike Ross Karen Sloan	
Greeters:	Bob Wildeson Nancy Wildeson	Gary Kennedy Marianne Kennedy	Gary Kennedy Marianne Kennedy
Ushers:	Mary Beth McGraw-Warne Bob Wildeson	Don Shoop Kathy Shoop	Don Shoop Kathy Shoop