

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 20, 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 20 – September 27

Sunday	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:45 a.m.	Worship with Holy Communion and Bible Presentation
Monday	1:00 p.m.	Bible Study
	7:00 p.m.	Scouts
Tuesday	6:30 p.m.	Scouts
		Deadline for ALIVE Registration
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.	LWR Quilters
Sunday	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:45 a.m.	Worship

GATHERING

WELCOME

STEWARDSHIP

Nancy Fricke

LUTHER'S MORNING PRAYER

We give thanks to you, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ your dear Son, that you have protected us through the night from all harm and danger.

We ask that you would also protect us today from sin and all evil, so that our lives and actions may please you.

Into your hands we commend ourselves:

our bodies, our souls, and all that is ours.

Let your holy angel be with us,

so that the wicked foe may have no power over us. Amen.

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Please stand as you are able.

Come, beloved people of God. Come awake to the wonder of God's love.

We come with hearts ready to receive, to rejoice, and to respond.

Open your eyes to the gifts that surround you,
the gift of this day, this community, this life,
and the grace of God that meets us in every moment.

We open our hearts to God's abundant love.

God's love does not leave us unchanged.
It awakens us to the needs of our neighbors,
the beauty of creation, and the gifts God has entrusted to us.

We desire to live fully awake and fully alive.

Let us worship with grateful hearts, generous spirits,
and lives ready to be poured out in love.

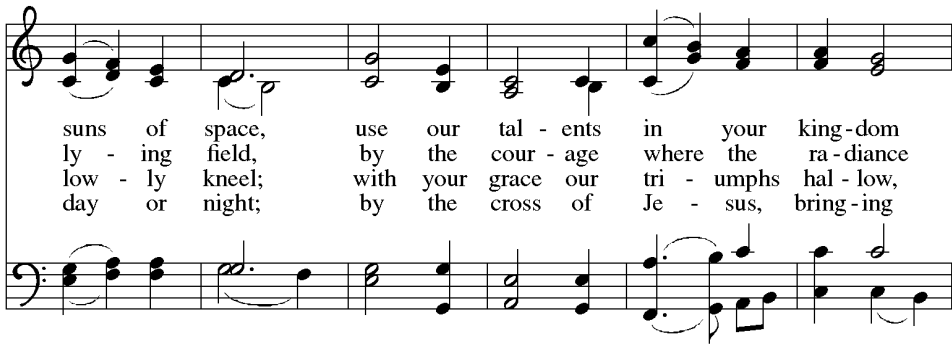
Come, let us worship the Lord!

Lord of Light

Text: Howell E. Lewis Music: ABBOT'S Leigh, Cyril V. Taylor



1 Lord of light, your name out - shin - ing all the stars and
2 By the toil of faith - ful work - ers in some far out -
3 Grant that knowl - edge, still in - creas - ing, at your feet may
4 By the prayers of faith - ful watch - ers, nev - er si - lent



suns of space, use our tal - ents in your king - dom
ly - ing field, by the cour - age where the ra - diance
low - ly kneel; with your grace our tri - umphs hal - low,
day or night; by the cross of Je - sus, bring - ing



as the ser - vants of your grace; use us to ful -
of the cross is still re - vealed, by the vic - to -
with your char - i - ty our zeal; lift the na - tions
peace to all and heal - ing light; by the love that



fill your pur - pose in the gift of Christ your Son.
ries of meek - ness, through re - proach and suf - f'ring won:
from the shad - ows to the glad - ness of the sun:
pass - es knowl - edge, mak - ing all your chil - dren one:

Refrain

Fa - ther, as in high - est heav-en, so on earth your will be done.

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

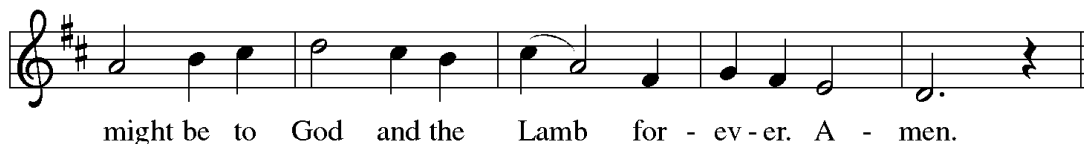
1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us

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.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Let us pray. **Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Please be seated.

WORD

BIBLE PRESENTATION and CHILDREN'S MESSAGE



Emma Rylan Summers

FIRST READING

Jonah 3:10-4:11

¹⁰ When God saw what the people of Ninevah did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them, and he did not do it.

^{4:1} But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ² He prayed to the LORD and said, “O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning, for I knew that you are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment. ³ And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” ⁴ And the LORD said, “Is it right for you to be angry?” ⁵ Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

⁶ The LORD God appointed a bush and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort, so Jonah was very happy about the bush. ⁷ But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸ When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, “It is better for me to die than to live.”

⁹ But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” ¹⁰ Then the LORD said, “You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹ And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than 120,000 persons who do not know their right hand from their left and also many animals?”

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

PSALM

Psalm 145:1-8

- ¹ I will exalt you, my God and king,
and bless your name forever and ever.
- ² **Every day will I bless you
and praise your name forever and ever.**
- ³ Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised!
There is no end to your greatness.
- ⁴ **One generation shall praise your works to another
and shall declare your power.**
- ⁵ I will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty
and all your marvelous works.
- ⁶ **They shall tell of the might of your wondrous acts,
and I will recount your greatness.**
- ⁷ They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness;
they shall sing joyfully of your righteousness.
- ⁸ **The LORD is gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

SECOND READING

Philippians 1:21-30

²¹ For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me, yet I cannot say which I will choose. ²³ I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better, ²⁴ but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵ Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶ so that, by my presence again with you, your boast might abound in Christ Jesus because of me.

²⁷ Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel ²⁸ and in no way frightened by those opposing you. For them, this is evidence of their destruction but of your salvation. And this is God's doing.

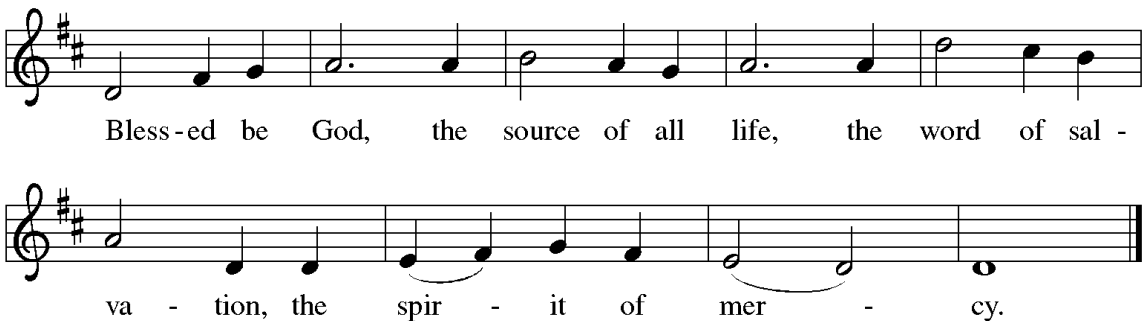
²⁹ For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ but of suffering for him as well, ³⁰ since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL

Matthew 20:1-16

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 20th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said to the disciples: ¹ “The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ² After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³ When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴ and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. ⁵ When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. ⁶ And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ ⁷ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ ⁸ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ ⁹ When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰ Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius.

¹¹ And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹² saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ ¹³ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? ¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ ¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

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.

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

Text: Frederick W. Faber Music: LORD, REVIVE US, North American, 19th cent.



- 1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer - cy, like the wide-ness of the sea;
- 2 There is wel - come for the sin - ner, and a prom - ised grace made good;
- 3 For the love of God is broad - er than the mea - sures of our mind;
- 4 'Tis not all we owe to Je - sus; it is some - thing more than all:



there's a kind-ness in God's jus - tice which is more than lib - er - ty.
there is mer - cy with the Sav - ior; there is heal - ing in his blood.
and the heart of the E - ter - nal is most won - der - ful - ly kind.
great - er good be - cause of e - vil, larg - er mer - cy through the fall.



There is no place where earth's sor - rows are more felt than up in heav'n.
There is grace e - nough for thou - sands of new worlds as great as this;
But we make this love too nar - row by false lim - its of our own;
Make our love, O God, more faith - ful; let us take you at your word,



There is no place where earth's fail - ings have such kind - ly judg - ment giv'n.
there is room for fresh cre - a - tions in that up - per home of bliss.
and we mag - ni - fy its strict - ness with a zeal God will not own.
and our lives will be thanks - giv - ing for the good - ness of the Lord.

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.

OFFERTORY

(to the tune of Morning Has Broken)

Verse 1

God, you awaken our hearts to your mercy,
Calling us out from the shadows of night.
Opening eyes to the gifts all around us,
Leading us forth by your love and your light.

Verse 2

You have entrusted your gifts to our keeping,
Time and our talents, our treasure and care.
Not for possession, but for your kingdom,
Not to be hoarded, but freely to share.

OFFERING PRAYER

God of creation, all blessings are from you. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors. May our giving become a way of living, fully awake to your love and fully alive in generosity. 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 all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

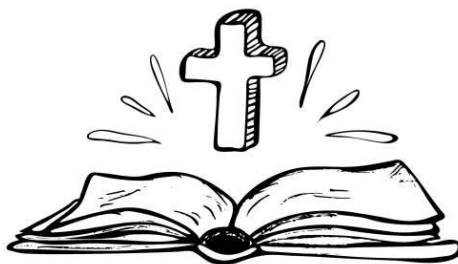
HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

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

Jesus, in his fully alive love welcomed the stranger,
lifted up the forgotten, healed the wounded, fed the hungry,
and called ordinary people to lives of extraordinary love.

And when the hour came, he gave himself completely for us.

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.

Therefore, remembering Christ's life, death, and resurrection,
we offer ourselves again to you.

**Awaken our hearts to your love,
and make us fully alive in your grace.**

Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ,
In the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor are yours,
Almighty God, 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

Come with awakened hearts 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



Lord of All Hopefulness

Text: Jan Struther Music: SLANE, Irish traditional



1 Lord of all hope - ful - ness, Lord of all joy,
2 Lord of all ea - ger - ness, Lord of all faith,
3 Lord of all kind - li - ness, Lord of all grace,
4 Lord of all gen - tle - ness, Lord of all calm,



whose trust, ev - er child - like, no cares could de - stroy:
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:
your hands swift to wel - come, your arms to em - brace:
whose voice is con - tent - ment, whose pres - ence is balm:



be there at our wak - ing, and give us, we pray,
be there at our la - bors, and give us, we pray,
be there at our hom - ing, and give us, we pray,
be there at our sleep - ing, and give us, we pray,



your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

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 who has fully awakened you in love,
and made you fully alive in generosity,
bless and keep you today and forever more.

Amen.

Rise Up, O Saints of God!

Text: Norman O. Forness, b. Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter

1 Rise up, O saints of God! From vain am - bi - tions turn;
2 Speak out, O saints of God! De - spair en - gulf earth's frame;
3 Rise up, O saints of God! The king - dom's task em - brace;
4 Give heed, O saints of God! Cre - a - tion cries in pain;
5 Com - mit your hearts to seek the paths which Christ has trod;

Christ rose tri - um - phant that your hearts with no - bler zeal might burn.
as heirs of God's bap - tis - mal grace, the word of hope pro - claim.
re - dress sin's cru - el con - se - quence; give jus - tice larg - er place.
stretch forth your hand of heal - ing now, with love the weak sus - tain.
and, quick - ened by the Spir - it's pow'r, rise up, O saints of God!

DISMISSAL

Go with awakened hearts, open to God's abundant love.

We go with generous lives, ready to share God's gifts with others.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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Congratulations to Emma Rylan Summers as she receives her Bible this morning. We keep Emma in prayer that she may faithfully read her Bible and be nourished in the faith through the Holy Scripture. God's Blessings to you!

Please remember in your prayers ...

Healing: **Doris Burdick** (10/9), Tony Gladfelter (9/26),
Bob Hockensmith (10/15), **Kristy Nienstedt** (10/1)



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

Grieving: **Family and Friends of Harold Forrester**

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

ATTENDANCE September 13 61 in person 10 online

HARRISBURG SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA BRASS QUINTET Fine Arts at First presents a Benefit Concert for The Central PA Food Bank at First Evangelical Lutheran Church in Carlisle on Sunday, September 20 at 3 p.m. Free admission with all proceeds donated to The Central PA Food Bank. Reception to follow. For questions, call 717-249-3310.

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.



HATS SCARVES AND MITTENS hanging time is here again

the Neighborhood Task Team is planning to hang items that will help our neighbors stay warm in the winter months. These items will be hung on the church fence. What can you do to help with this project? Purchase new or donate gently used hats, scarves and mittens for men, women and children to donate to this project. Share this with your friends, relatives and neighbors. Volunteer to hang items on the fence. Dates are October 4, November 1, December 6, and January 16-18. Contact Mary Beth Warne McGraw at 717-372-8282.

GRIEF SHARE at Christian Life Church located at 1400 Warm Spring Rd. Chambersburg is hosting a “Surviving the Holidays” seminar will be offered On November 14 from 10 to noon. There is no cost. Register:

<https://christianlifechambersburg.churchcenter.com/registrations/events>

Contact Lisa Fidler at 717-404-3599 with questions.

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>September 20</u>	<u>September 27</u>	<u>October 4</u>
Lector:	Sally Herritt	Becky Hoover	Ralph Burdick
Communion	Jim Brown		Mary Gotwald
Assistants:	Rose Wilson		Tim Gotwald Karen Sloan
Greeters:	Bob Hammer Dot Hammer	Bob Hammer Dot Hammer	Bob Wildeson Nancy Wildeson
Ushers:	Jim Brown Rose Wilson	Jim Brown Rose Wilson	Mary Beth Warne McGraw Bob Wildeson



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www.felcc.org
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.

Sunday Schedule

Donuts and Coffee at 9:15 a.m.

Sunday School for All Ages at 9:30 a.m.

Worship at 10:45 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.