

First News First

Volume 61, Issue 10

October 2026

October brings changing leaves, cooler mornings, and beauty which invites us to slow down and notice God's presence. Throughout the month, I hope you are able to take time to be a part of the ways God is working in and through our congregation.

On Sunday, October 11, we will celebrate our In-Gathering Sunday. This is a wonderful time of dedicating the fabric kits, school kits, baby kits, and personal care kits along with the quilts that will be displayed throughout the sanctuary. The Women of the ELCA will be helping to lead worship that morning, and I look forward to celebrating this ministry with you. Along with the dedication of the quilts and kits, we will also be collecting and dedicating the Anticipated Giving Cards on this Sunday as well. Be sure to read the article from our Stewardship Committee (page 3-4) for more information about our **"Awakened Hearts, Generous Lives" campaign.**

Sunday, October 18, will be another special day as Bishop Steven Herr joins us. Bishop Herr will be with us at **9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall** for a time of conversation and to give us an update on the ministry taking place throughout our synod. I hope you will come, bring your questions, and take advantage of this opportunity to hear directly from our bishop. Bishop Herr will then preach and preside at Holy Communion during our 10:45 a.m. worship service. Following worship, we will share a light lunch together. Please sign up for the lunch on the sheet by the main office door. Sharing a meal is a simple and meaningful way to enjoy one another's company, so I hope you will plan to stay.

Then, on **Sunday, October 25, we celebrate Reformation Sunday.** You are encouraged to wear red as we celebrate the work of the Holy Spirit. Red reminds us of the Holy Spirit, who revealed scriptural insights to Martin Luther that helped shape his theology and, ultimately, our Lutheran understanding of scripture. Reformation Sunday is a good time to remember from where we have come while also giving thanks for the ways the Holy Spirit continues to guide and renew the church today.

There is a lot happening this month, and I hope you will make worship a regular part of your October. There is something special about gathering together each week—to hear God's Word, share Communion, sing, pray, laugh, encourage one another, and simply be together as God's people.

So, enjoy the beauty of fall. Take a walk and notice the changing colors. Give thanks for the crisp mornings and the warmth of community. And wherever this season finds you, remember that God's love is always surrounding you.

May we continue to be **fully awake to God's love and fully alive in generosity.**

Pastor Jane Nicholson





You are warmly invited

to worship at First Lutheran Church
for a

Communion Service

Sunday, October 18

10:45 AM

First Lutheran Church

43 W Washington St.
Chambersburg, PA

Bishop Steven Herr

will be leading worship

Following worship you are welcome
to stay for lunch.

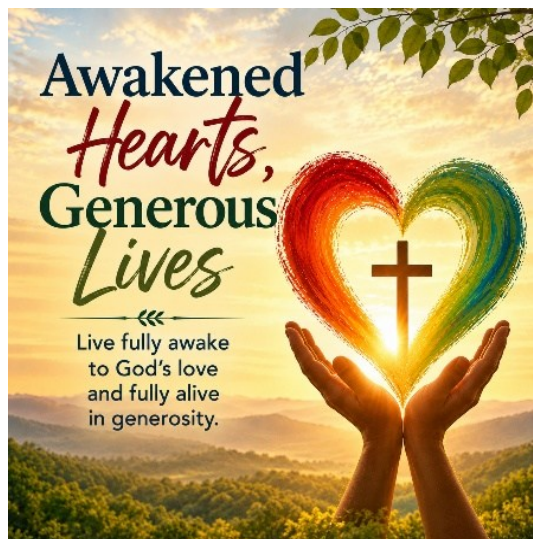


There will be a time of conversation
with the Bishop to discuss what is
happening in the synod at 9:30,
and donuts at 9:15.

Please sign up for the lunch by
contacting the church office at
717-264-2015 or sign up by the
main office door by October 11.



STEWARDSHIP



Awakened Hearts, Generous Lives

*"Whatever you do, in word or deed,
do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus,
giving thanks to God the Father through him."*
Colossians 3:17

What does it mean to live fully awake to God's love
and fully alive in generosity?

Our stewardship theme, "Awakened Hearts, Generous Lives," invites us to pause and notice the many ways God's love is present in our lives. When our hearts are awakened to God's goodness and grace, our response naturally begins to take shape—not simply in what we give, but in how we live.

Generosity is a way of life. It is expressed in the sharing of our time, our gifts, our resources, our compassion, and our presence. It is a response of gratitude for all that God has entrusted to us and an opportunity to participate in God's work in the world.

This year, we are including The Giving Path as a reminder that generosity is a journey. Wherever we may find ourselves along that path, we are invited to prayerfully consider our next step. Perhaps God is calling us to begin giving, to give more intentionally, or simply to become more aware of the ways we can live generously each day.

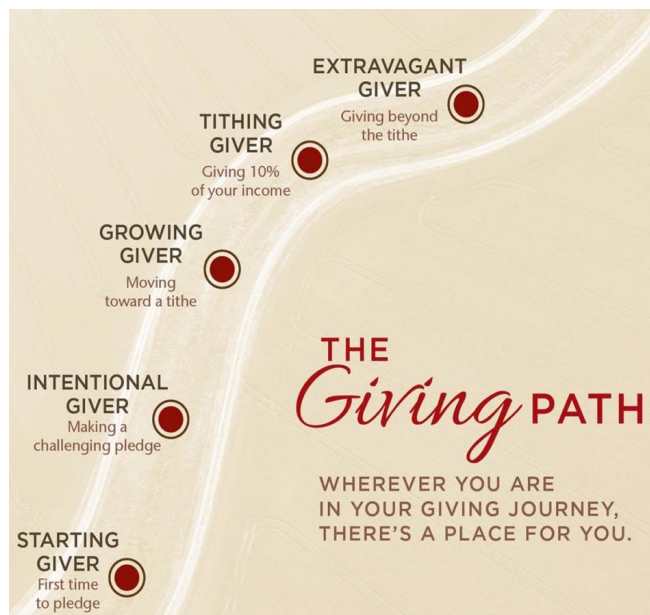
As we reflect on Colossians 3:17, we are reminded that whatever we do can become an expression of our gratitude to God. Our giving is not simply about meeting a need; it is about opening our hearts and allowing God's love to shape the way we live.

As part of our stewardship journey, we invite you to prayerfully consider your anticipated giving for the coming year. Please return your Anticipated Giving Card (included in this newsletter and also available on the table by the elevator) on Sunday, October 11. Your giving card may be placed in the offering plate that morning or mailed to the church office.

May this season awaken our hearts to the abundance of God's love and inspire us to live more fully, gratefully, and generously. Thank you for supporting the ministry of First Lutheran.

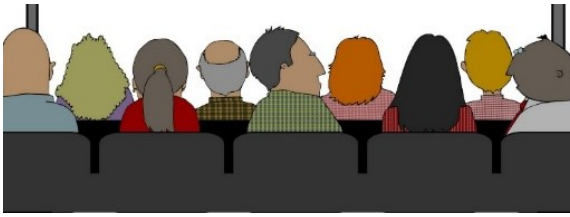
Awakened Hearts, Generous Lives
Live fully awake and fully alive,

The Stewardship Committee



STEWARDSHIP

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 will be to elect council members to serve a three year term beginning January 1, 2027. We will also 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 constitution will be available at the entrances to the worship space on November 8. For those who receive their newsletter via e-mail the document will be attached to the email with the newsletter.

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.



HARVEST HOME

Sunday, November 15, 2026



Please plan to share the bounty of your table with others through the Meals on Wheels program.

The following food items are needed:

- *Medium Noodles*
- *Small jars of Alfredo Sauce*
- *Sugar Free Canned Fruit*
- *White Cake Mixes*
- *Grapenut Cereal*
- *Low Salt Chicken Broth*
- *Dark Colored Dish Cloths*
- *Egg Noodles*
- *Rotini Noodles & Spaghetti Sauce*
- *Canned Vegetables*
(especially green beans & carrots)
- *Macaroni*
- *Sugar Free Cookies*
- *Monetary donations*

Donations may be brought to the sanctuary *Sunday, November 15* or deposited outside the church office door in Memorial Hall. Please place any monetary contributions in an envelope marked for Meals on Wheels.

October & November Worship

- October 4 Worship with Holy Communion
Stewardship Message presented by Joyce Ray
- October 11 Worship led by Women of the ELCA
In-Gathering with blessing of Kits and Quilts
Presenting the Anticipated Giving Cards for the 2027
budget year
- October 18 Worship with Holy Communion
Bishop Steven Herr preaching and presiding
at Holy Communion
- October 25 Reformation Sunday with Holy Communion wear Red
Guest Preacher: Bill Nienstedt
- November 1 All Saints Sunday with Holy Communion
- November 8 Worship
Guest Preacher: Bill Nienstedt
- November 15 Holy Communion with Of the Land and Seasons Liturgy
Harvest Home Sunday
- November 22 Christ the King Sunday with Holy Communion
Congregational Meeting
- November 29 First Sunday of Advent

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 and include the spelling of the name, and date of death if available. felccoffice@gmail.com



WOMEN'S MINISTRY

LADIES BREAKFAST

Wednesday, October 21
8:30 a.m. at
Texas Lunch
All ladies welcome!



Women of the ELCA (WELCA)

will gather for Bible Study
and fellowship on
Thursday, October 8th
at 1:00 p.m. in
Meeting Room 1.
We are studying the Women
of the Bible.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

VISIT from BISHOP STEVEN HERR

Bishop Steven Herr will be joining us on Sunday, October 18. Conversation time with the Bishop will be at 9:30 in the Fellowship Hall. He will be giving us an update on the ministry in the synod. Bishop Herr will preach and preside at Communion that morning at 10:45 and there will be a light lunch following the service. We hope you will join us for this time together.

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.



THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone for the cards and kind words. The celebration was a wonderful and complete surprise. I am grateful for such a caring church family.

-Jane Love



When families find their homes destroyed or must flee for their safety, soap and a towel rarely make the cut for what they can carry. Arriving in a refugee camp or other place of safety, they are scared, vulnerable and dirty. The simple items included in a **PERSONAL CARE KIT** provide much needed self-care, critical germ fighting supplies and the chance for our neighbors in need to regain dignity.

Our congregation met on September 13 to put together **over 100 Personal care Kits** to be sent to LWR. Included in the kit was a towel, 2 bars of soap, toothbrush, nail clippers and a comb. Our church youth and members of the congregation helped make quick work of the project. Thanks to Thrivent for a grant to purchase the towels.

Many , Many hands made God's work easy.



COMMUNITY EVENTS



Habitat for Humanity Used Book Sale and Donations

Habitat for Humanity and St. John's Church have again partnered together to host a used book sale to benefit Habitat's housing ministry in Franklin County. Items can be donated until October 10. The sale will be October 23 to 25.

Drop off locations

1. At any of the Patriot Federal Credit Union lobby locations in Franklin County.
2. At St. John's United Church of Christ, Monday-Friday 9-3, located at 1811 Lincoln Way East in Chambersburg.
3. At the Habitat ReStore donation center, Wednesday-Saturday normal store hours.
4. In bulk donations, contact assistant@sjucc1811.org or 717-263-8593.
5. Colony House Furniture

We welcome new and used books on all subjects, including paperbacks. We also welcome DVDs, audio books (on CDs), puzzles, and board games. We respectfully decline textbooks, encyclopedias, musty books, music, and cassette and VHS videos.

The sale will take place at St. John's UCC over three days on Friday, October 23 from 2-8pm; Saturday, October 24 from 9am-5pm and Sunday, October 25 from Noon-4pm. All proceeds will be used to help build the next Habitat house in Franklin County. Cash or check only.

CROP WALK will be held on Sunday, October 18. We will start at Falling Spring Presbyterian Church on North Main at about 1:30 and the walk will begin at 2:00. Money raised will be donated to organizations that feed the hungry both locally and abroad. Please talk with Bill Nienstedt for more details.



HELPING HANDS

2026 Council

President: Mike Ross
 Vice President: Gary Kennedy
 Secretary: Marianne Kennedy
 Treasurer: Sally Herritt
 Pastor: Jane Nicholson
 Deacon: Freda Dorand
 Jeff Dorand
 Lori Palmer
 Mary Beth McGraw-Warne
 Gerry Wilson
 Financial Secretary: Carol McCoy



PRAYER CHAIN

May we include you in our prayers? Do you have a prayer need that we can help you with? If so, please call our prayer chain group leader:

Marcia Hunt @
 717-263-0781

Names are kept on the prayer chain for 1 month. After that month, please contact the office again if you would like to have a name on for another month.

Alyssa Ross	10/01
Donna Ross	10/06
Martha Carbaugh	10/11
Emery Coy	10/11
Kristy Neinstedt	10/15
John Sekel	10/16
Laura Burkholder	10/17
Robert Hammer	10/23
Ruth Ann Brown	10/24
Stephen Umbrell	10/26
Adam Grove	10/28
Elliot Coy	10/29
Richard Ray	10/30
Tracy Ross	10/30

TRANSPORTATION

Need a Ride?

Our church provides transportation to church on Sundays! Please call if you need a ride.

Church office: 717-264-2015



DEADLINE

for the
 November
 Newsletter
 will be
 October 15

REMINDER

Hand bells and Choir
 start on Thursday,
 October 15.
 Hand bells 6:00 p.m.
 Choir 7:15 p.m.

FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

43 W. Washington Street
Chambersburg, PA 17201
E-mail: felccoffice@gmail.com
Website: www.felcc.org

 @FirstEvangelicalLutheranChurch

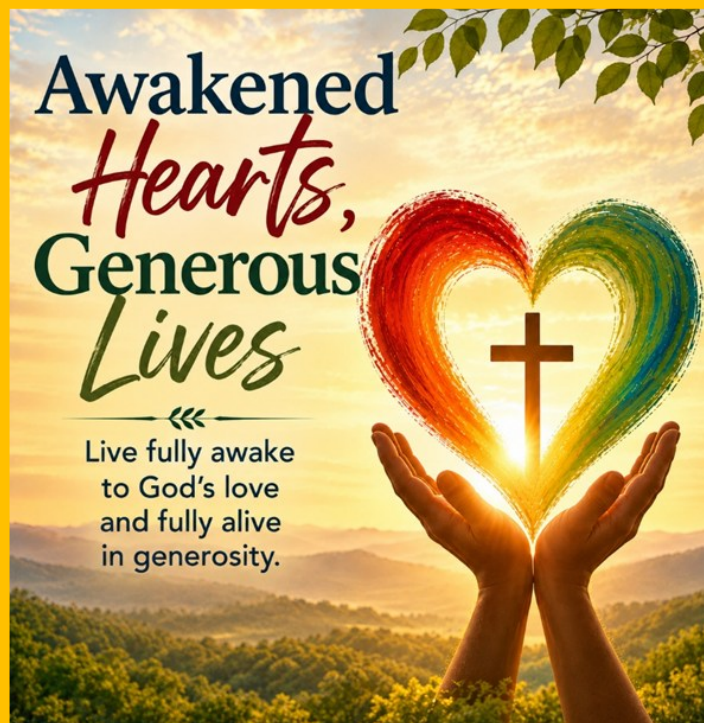
 @felccyouth



Church Office Hours

Monday-Thursday
9 a.m.-1 p.m.

CHURCH OFFICE	717-264-2015
Parish Administrator	ext. 1
Director of Music	ext. 3
Pastor	ext. 4



*Whatever you do,
in word or deed,
do everything
in the name
of the Lord Jesus,
giving thanks
to God the Father
through him.*

Colossians 3:17

2027 Anticipated Giving Cards for our Stewardship Season are included in this newsletter. We ask that you return them on Sunday, October 11, 2026 in the offering or to the church office.