

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
August 30, 2020

WELCOME

It is a joy to have you here at worship with us today. We especially remember those who are not able to be with us this morning and keep them in our prayers.

For the safety of all, we ask throughout the worship service that you please wear your face mask. If it becomes troublesome to breathe, please excuse yourself and go to the hallway (if possible) prior to removing your mask. We understand that breathing may be challenging for several of us, feel free to leave if you need to.

If you are in need of a mask, please let our ushers know.

The Coronavirus spreads easily through singing, so we are not having congregational singing for a while. As you may have anticipated, projecting our voices also extends the distance of the virus spreading, so it is recommended that you use your library voice as you speak responses in our worship service today.

Following worship today, please let us know if you have suggestions for future services. We are all learning new ways together.

Visitors are invited 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 in church.

*Large print bulletins for today's worship are available.
Feel free to ask an usher if interested.*

When leaving, please take your bulletin with you so others do not need to touch the same paper.

Pastor Nicholson will be available outside following worship to talk with you. You are encouraged to exit the building and talk with persons outdoors as well.

If by chance you contract the virus in the next couple of days, please let the church know so we can try to contact those who sat near you.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP (adapted from Psalm 26)

Your steadfast love is before my eyes;

I have walked faithfully with you.

I will wash my hands in innocence, O LORD,

that I may go in procession round your altar,

singing aloud a song of thanksgiving

and recounting all your wonderful deeds.

LORD, I love the house in which you dwell

and the place where your glory abides.

Let us worship the Lord.

O Jesus, I Have Promised

With your mask on, you are invited to hum along as you reflect upon the words.

- 1 O Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;
remain forever near me, my master and my friend.
I shall not fear the battle if you are by my side,
nor wander from the pathway if you will be my guide.
- 2 Oh, let me hear you speaking in accents clear and still
above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self-will.
Now speak to reassure me, to hasten or control;
now speak and make me listen, O Guardian of my soul.
- 3 O Jesus, you have promised to all who follow you
that where you are in glory your servant shall be too.
And Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;
oh, give me grace to follow, my master and my friend.

Text: John E. Bode, 1816-1874, alt.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Please stand as you are able.

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.

Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin.

Reconciling God, **we confess that we do not trust your abundance,
and we deny your presence in our lives.**

We fear difference and do not welcome others as you have welcomed us.

We sin in thought, word, and deed.

By your grace, forgive us;

through your love, renew us;

and in your Spirit, lead us;

so that we may live and serve you in newness of life. Amen.

Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake,
forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ,
and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your
sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

KYRIE

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who offer in this place and in their homes their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Please be seated.

SPECIAL MUSIC

WORD

SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 12:9-21

⁹Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹²Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. ¹³Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." ²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 16:21-28

The Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 16th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²¹From that time on, after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²²And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." ²³But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

²⁴Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me."

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

Please be seated.

SERMON

For the Beauty of the Earth

With your mask on, you are invited to hum along as you reflect upon the words.

1 For the beauty of the earth,
for the beauty of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies:

Refrain

Christ, our Lord, to you we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.

2 For the wonder of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale and tree and flow'r,
sun and moon and stars of light: *Refrain*

3 For the joy of ear and eye,
for the heart and mind's delight,
for the mystic harmony
linking sense to sound and sight: *Refrain*

4 For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth and friends above;
for all gentle thoughts and mild: *Refrain*

Text: Folliot S. Pierpoint, 1835-1917, alt.

OUR RESPONSE

OFFERING

Returning our thanks to God with our offering is a regular part of our worship service. You are welcome to place your gifts in the offering plates at the entrances to the sanctuary, mail in your offering to the church office at 43 W Washington St; Chambersburg, PA 17201 or give electronically on our website...FELCC.org (upper right hand corner on the homepage.)

OFFERING PRAYER

Please stand as you are able.

Let us pray: Merciful God, **we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us— ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

APOSTLES' CREED

Let us confess our faith using the words of the 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

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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.**

SENDING

BLESSING

The blessing of almighty God, the Father, the † Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be with you always. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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SUNDAY SCHOOL begins on Sunday September 13 from 10:00 to 10:30. We ask that you please wear a mask and keep a 6 ft distance when you attend.

AGE	TOPIC	TEACHER	LOCATION
Adults	Study of Psalms	Tim Gotwald	Parlor
Elementary and Younger	Stories of the Bible	Mary Gotwald and Nicki Johnson	Second Floor Classroom
Youth	God and Life	Gerry Wilson	Second Floor

JESUS: The God Who Knows Your Name Pastor Nicholson will be leading a Zoom (on-line) Bible Study Group for 6 weeks beginning mid-September through early November. The study is based on Max Lucado’s book, “Jesus: The God Who Knows your Name.” Each person will have a study guide and we will be watching together a DVD during the weekly hour-long study. Two options for discussion group times are being considered. Let pastor know of your interest by August 31 and we will see what time the preference is for the majority of people.

- a. – Monday afternoons, or
- b. – Tuesday evenings.

Looking forward to engaging in God’s word in this new way. Join us!

SPIRITRUST LUTHERAN AUXILIARY voted to postpone their 2020 Membership Drive due to Covid-19. To make a contribution to the auxiliary for 2020 please feel free to give your donation by sending it to Marjorie Dale, Aux. Pres, 235 Woodvale Drive, Chambersburg, PA 17201 or Mary Jane Lindsey, Aux. Treas., 273 Cherry Lane Dr., Chambersburg, PA 17202. Any questions please call Marjorie at 717-860-7544.

SPIRITRUST LUTHERAN AUXILIARY is sponsoring Smith’s BBQ Chicken on Sunday, September 13th starting at 11:00 a.m. Drive through **service will be provided until sold out**. Each dinner includes ½ chicken, baked potato, baked beans, choice of applesauce/macaroni salad, roll and butter. Cost is **\$12.00/dinner**. The event will take place at Franklin Hardware & Pet Store, 1975 Philadelphia Ave. Please call Marjorie Dale @ 717-860-7544 for additional information.

SCHOOL KITS Item needed now is 70 Sheet Notebooks (280-300) of wide or college-ruled paper approximately 8” x 10 ½” – No Loose Leaf Paper. Please place items in the School Kit Box in Memorial Hall prior to October 5.

QUEEN ESTHER The Sight and Sound Theater will be broadcasting a live production of Queen Esther at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, September 4 on pay per view (minimum cost \$25). An encore version will be available on Saturday September 5 at 3:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. More information available at <https://www.sight-sound.tv/>



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Pastor
Pastoral Assistant
Director of Church Music
Parish Administrator
Treasurer
Financial Secretary
Custodian

The Rev. Jane Nicholson
The Rev. Charles Kampmeyer
Freda J. Dorand, Deacon
Cheryl Christman
Sally Herritt
Carol McCoy
Jim Forbes

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

Sundays 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.