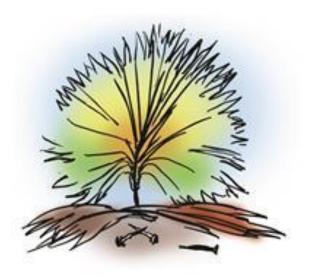
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost September 3, 2023



WELCOME VISITORS

We invite you to pick up a Visitor's Packet as you leave the service today. Thank you for joining us this morning! We are blessed by your presence.

Children are always welcome in church, If desired, there is an unstaffed nursery for those age 4 and younger located downstairs past the elevator, across the hall from the bulletin board.

Large print bulletins for today's worship are available, please feel free to ask an usher if interested.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST

Sunday	9:30 a.m.	Worship w/Holy Communion	
Monday		Office Closed for Labor Day	
Tuesday	6:30 p.m.	Property	
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.	LWR Quilters	
-	11:00 a.m.	Evangelism	
	7:00 p.m.	Scouts Committee	
Sunday	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School	
v	10:45 a.m.	Worship W/Holy Communion	

Stewardship

11:45 a.m.

Gathering

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Please stand as you are able.

CALL TO WORSHIP

We are called to proclaim the good news:

God is at work!

This good news is not left in some history long ago or a place far away:

God is at work in the world still today!

In us and through us,

God is glorified in our work.

When we offer a helping hand,

God is praised.

When we share of our abundance,

God is known in the world and God is at work in us!

In our daily lives, let us live out and fulfill our baptismal calling.

God's Work. Our Hands.

God + bless your hands, your gifts, and your work, that through you, God's love may be known. **Amen.**

Come, let us worship the Lord with thanksgiving in our hearts!

For the Beauty of the Earth



Text: Folliott S. Pierpoint, 1835–1917, alt. Music: DIX, Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872

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.**

HYMN OF PRAISE



- 1 Come, let us join our cheer-ful songs with an-gels round the throne;
- 2 "Wor thy the Lamb that died," they cry, "to be ex alt ed thus!"
- 3 Je sus is wor thy to re-ceive hon or and pow'r di vine;
- 4 Let all cre a tion join in one to bless the sa cred name



ten thou-sand thou-sand are their tongues, but all their joys are one. "Wor-thy the Lamb," our lips re-ply, "for he was slain for us!" and bless-ings, more than we can give, be, Lord, for - ev - er thine. of God who sits up- on the throne, and to a - dore the Lamb.

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.



CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

¹Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ²There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. ³Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up." ⁴When the LORD saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." ⁵Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." ⁶He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

⁷Then the LORD said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, ⁸and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. ⁹The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. ¹⁰So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt." ¹¹But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" ¹²He said, "I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain."

¹³But Moses said to God, "If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" ¹⁴God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." He said further, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I AM has sent me to you.'" ¹⁵God also said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'The LORD, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you':

This is my name forever, and this my title for all generations."

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

¹Give thanks to the LORD and call upon God's name; make known the deeds of the LORD among the peoples.

²Sing to the LORD, sing praises, and speak of all God's marvelous works.

³Glory in God's holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.

⁴Search for the strength of the LORD; continually seek God's face.

⁵Remember the marvels God has done, the wonders and the judgments of God's mouth,

⁶O offspring of Abraham, God's servant, O children of Jacob, God's chosen ones.

²³Israel came into Egypt, and Jacob became a sojourner in the land of Ham.

²⁴The LORD made the people of Israel very fruitful, more numerous than their enemies,

²⁵whose hearts God turned, so that they hated God's people, and dealt unjustly with the servants of God.

²⁶O LORD, you sent Moses your servant, and Aaron, your chosen one. ^{45b}Hallelujah!

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.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION





fire with-in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred. it burn like



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing the good news that you bring. for

GOSPEL Matthew 16:21-28

The Holy 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. ²⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

²⁷"For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON

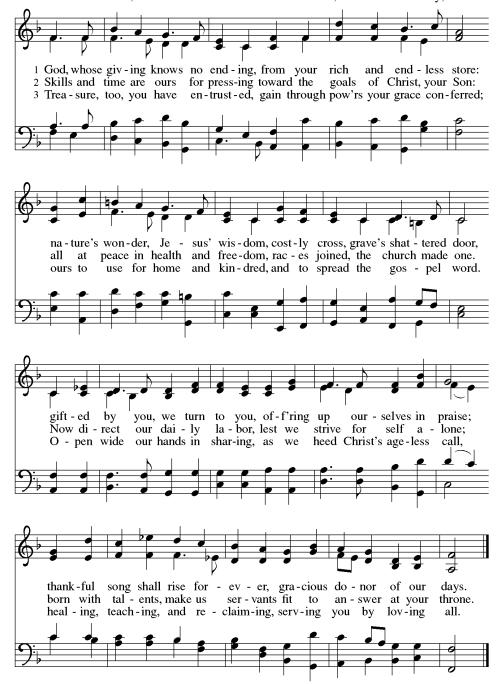
Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

PASTORAL PRAYER

Please stand as you are able.

God, Whose Giving Know No Ending

Text: Robert L. Edwards, 1915-2006 Music: RUSTINGTON, C. Hubert H. Parry, 1848-1918



APOSTLE 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

God, we pray, open our hands in love.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. And also with you.

Please be seated following the sharing of peace.

MEAL

GATHERING OF GIFTS

During the Summer Months, please place your offering in the plates at the two main entrance doors. An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. Online giving is available at felco.org

SPECIAL MUSIC

"It Is Well"

by Craig Courtney

Soloist – Kate Nienstedt

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERTORY



OFFERING PRAYER

Holy God, giver of all good things, receive the gifts we bring, fruit of the earth and the work of human hands, that they may be used to your purposes for life and love in the world. 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.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Honor, praise, glory and thanksgiving to you, God, our loving Creator.

In the beginning you reached your hands into the earth and formed humanity in your own image. You breathed into us your own breath of love and gave us hearts and hands and voices to live your loving purpose in the world.

Throughout the history of your people, you brought us into community with you and one another and guided us through your prophets.

In the fulfillment of all things, you came to us in Jesus, who gathered around himself a community formed by your love, and yearned to gather all people together.

On 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.

In the same way 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 sins.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Trusting in his promise to be among us whenever we gather in his name, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Gathered as your people, meeting in Jesus' name, and preparing ourselves to feast upon Jesus' very body and blood, we plead with all creation:

Come, Lord Jesus.

Send your Spirit upon this meal, the body and blood of Jesus, that we overflow with your selfless love. Turn us to face our neighbors, that by us and through us your love may be known in the world.

Come, Holy Spirit.

All honor, praise and glory to you, God of creative, dirty hands, God of holy, wounded hands, God who strengthens and guides our hands, 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, eat and be nourished to do God's work with our hands...

Thanks be to God.

Please be seated.

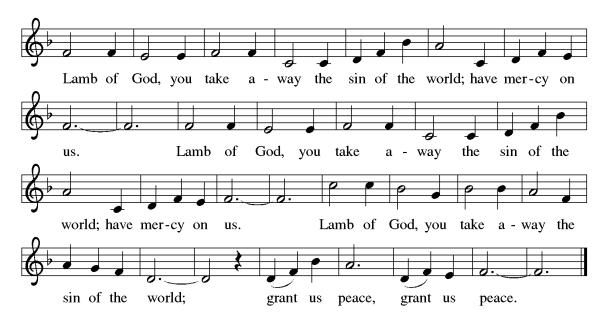
DISTRIBUTION

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



SPECIAL MUSIC

"Contradance in G"

by Ferdinado Carulli

Played By Freda Dorand

Please stand as you are able.

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy Jesus, in this meal you have fed and nourished us to work in your beloved world. Send us now, filled and strengthened by your Spirit to live your love for others. Amen.

SENDING

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Gracious God, as we live out the phrase: "God's Work. Our Hands.," and we sense the working of the Holy Spirit among 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

God, the Father, & Son, and Holy Spirit bless you this day, that you may be God's hands and heart and voice at work in the world. **Amen.**

O Beautiful for Spacious Skies

Text: Katherine L. Bates, 1859-1929 Music: MATERNA, Samuel A. Ward, 1848-1903



DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are God's hands at work in the world! **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

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Altar flowers are given to the glory of God in honor of our 38th wedding anniversary by Doris & Ralph Burdick.

Please remember in your prayers ...

Healing: Dan Blair (9/23), Vernon Dorseth (9/16), Leslie Gotwald (9/5), Denise

Heinbaugh (9/28), Shirley Martin (9/7), Dalton Paul, Edison Paul (9/21)

Long Term Care: Pat Dent, Austin Hunter, and Joe Pine

Grieving: The Family of Esther Beaver

Military: Tawny & Brad Arnold and Paul Whelan (imprisoned in Russia).

ATTENDANCE August 27 67 in person 6 on line

<u>PASTORAL CARE</u> Pastor Nicholson will be away from August 28 through September 4. Thank you to Pastor Bill Nienstedt 717-491-9704 for his willingness to cover pastoral emergencies and lead worship during this time.

FALL WORSHIP AND FAITH FORMATION Beginning

September 10, the time for worship will return to 10:45. This is also the morning that Sunday School will resume at 9:30 along with Coffee and Donuts at 9:15. At worship on this day, we will also be presenting Bibles to our 3rd graders. We look forward to having you with us.



LIVE MIDDLE SCHOOL RETREAT This synod youth event will be held at Nawakwa on September 22-24. Music, crafts, recreation and all around fun! Please return your registration forms and fees to Pastor Nicholson by Tuesday, September 5. The cost per family is \$50. If you are in need of financial assistance, that is available as well.

CHURCH PHOTO DIRECTORY Please sign up for your photo so we are able to better learn names of our congregational members. Every family photographed for the directory will receive a copy of the directory and an 8x10 portrait at no cost.



You may book your appointment after worship today and next Sunday at the table outside of the parish administrator's office. You may call Cheryl in the church office to make your appointment. 717-264-2015. You may use the link either on our webpage www.felcc.org or on facebook. Pictures will be taken on Monday, September 18, and Tuesday, September 19. Kindly sign-up by today. Thanks for your support of this project!



GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS SUNDAY

First Lutheran assembles Personal Care Kits to send to Lutheran World Relief each year. This year we are making 60 kits. We are still in need of 1 toothbrush and 2-4 oz bars of soap for each kit. These may be placed outside the

Parish Administrator's office. The congregation (all ages) is invited on September 17 to assemble the kits at 9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Contact Janet Friend with any questions at (717) 360-1977.

HARVEST HOME Sunday October 1. We are collecting food and financial contributions for the Meals on Wheels Program. Donations may be brought to the sanctuary on the first of October or placed outside the office door prior to that. Please place monetary contributions in an envelope marked for Meals on Wheels. The following food items are needed: medium



noodles, macaroni, spaghetti and spaghetti sauce, small jars of alfredo sauce, sugar free canned fruit, vanilla cake mixes, canned vegetables, low salt chicken broth, sugar free cookies and Grapenut cereal. They are also in need of dark colored dish clothes.



LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE is coordinating with the Pacifica Synod and other partners to assess the needs of people impacted by the wildfires on Maui. LDR will work with them to provide for immediate needs and long term recovery. Gifts may be either be made payable to **First Lutheran Church** with "U.S. Wildfires" written in the memo line and place in the offering plate **OR** they may be made payable to **Lutheran Disaster Fund** with

"U.S. Wildfires" in the memo line and mailed to Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; P.O. Box 1809; Merrifield, VA 22116-8009. Thank you for your generous response.

QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTION Did you know that a Qualified Charitable Distribution allows individuals who are 72 years old or older to donate up to \$ 100,000 total to one or more charities directly from a taxable IRA or 401k instead of taking their Required Minimum Distribution? As a result, the donor may avoid paying federal income tax on the distribution while also possibly avoid being pushed into a higher income tax bracket. Contact your financial advisor and/or your tax advisor for more details and procedures to make it happen.

<u>COUNCIL MEMBERS NEEDED</u> In November we will be electing council members for a three year term to serve from January 2024 through December 2026. If you have an interest in being nominated or finding out more about this opportunity, please talk with Tim Gotwald.

THE PACK & TROOP WILL BE SELLING POPCORN AFTER CHURCH today and September 17th (cash, checks, and credit cards will be accepted). The sales will help the scouts with camping and other scout-related activities.

DINE TO DONATE The SpiriTrust Lutheran Chambersburg Auxiliary invites you to dine out at the Chambersburg Applebee's located at 1050 Wayne Ave, Chambersburg on Monday, September 18th from 4:00 to 8:00PM. Applebee's will donate 20% of your total purchase amount (alcohol not included) to the Auxiliary. All proceeds support SpiriTrust Lutheran, The Village at Luther Ridge and SpiriTrust Lutheran Home Care & Hospice in Franklin County.

<u>DISCOUNT CARDS</u> SpiriTrust Lutheran Auxiliary is selling discount cards. For \$5 each. Money raised will help Hospice, Home Care, and The Inn. The card is active now through 9/1/24 and may be used for discounts at various area businesses. Contact: Tudy Gates (717) 264-6312.

WHITE AWAKE An Honest Look at What It Means to be White by Daniel Hill. This fall, Joyce Ray will facilitate a discussion on this book. Hill is a pastor in Chicago. Through his writing, he does a beautiful job of interweaving these ethical, social, and theological issues as he brings us along on his journey of understanding. Please be in touch with Joyce if you would like her to order a book for you or you may order your own. The class will be on Sundays at 9:30 beginning mid-September for 5-6 weeks.



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF KITS

Bookbag items have all be fulfilled.

We are still in need of soap (4 oz. bars) and baby socks for Health and Baby Kits.

Thank you for being a part of this Lutheran World Relief Project.



WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

	September 3	September 10	September 17
Lector:	Joyce Ray	Doris Burdick	Ralph Burdick
Soundboard:	Marlin Maclay	Scott Carbaugh	Rose Wilson
Communion Assistants:	Jim Brown Mary Gotwald Tim Gotwald		Jim Brown Mary Gotwald Tim Gotwald
Greeters:	Martha Carbaugh Scott Carbaugh	Martha Carbaugh Scott Carbaugh	Dot Hammer Bob Hammer
Altar Guild:	Barb Evans Karin Woods	Barb Evans Karin Woods	Barb Evans Karin Woods



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

43 West Washington Street Chambersburg Pa 17201 www.felcc.org FELCCoffice@gmail.com 717–264-2015

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

Summer Worship at 9:30 a.m. including Labor Day weekend.

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.