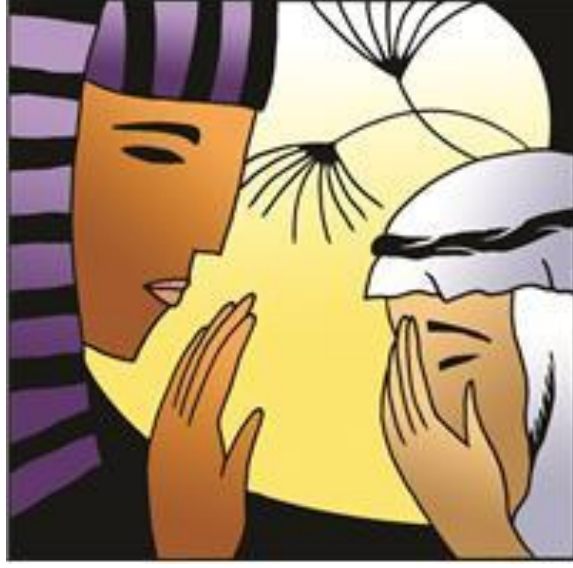


Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 17, 2023



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.*

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!

God's Work, Our Hands

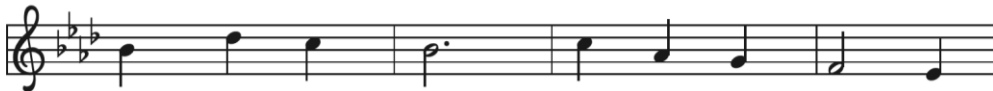
Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954 Music: EARTH AND ALL STARS, David N. Johnson, 1922-1987



1 God's work, our hands: work - ing to - geth - er,
 2 God's work, our feet: trav - 'ling to - geth - er,
 3 God's work, our voice: sing - ing to - geth - er,
 4 God is at work in and a - round us:



build - ing a fu - ture, re - pair - ing the world,
 fol - low - ing Je - sus to plac - es un - known,
 prais - ing, pro - claim - ing to all who will hear,
 seed - lings are sprout - ing and bread's on the rise!



rais - ing up homes, plant - ing new gar - dens,
 walk - ing as friends, march - ing for free - dom,
 pray - ing for peace, shout - ing for jus - tice,
 Washed and set free, hum - bled and hon - ored,



feed - ing the hun - gry and shelt - 'ring the cold.
 run - ning the race with God's fu - ture the goal.
 claim - ing God's love for the lost and the least.
 gift - ed by grace, we re - spond in God's love.



Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,
 Bless, God, our feet as we fol - low your way,
 Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,
 Bless, God, our lives as we an - swer your call,



shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.

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 Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Please be seated.

WORD

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

FIRST READING

Genesis 50:15-21

¹⁵Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

103:8-13

⁸LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;

⁹**you will not always accuse us,
nor will you keep your anger forever.**

¹⁰You have not dealt with us according to our sins,
nor repaid us according to our iniquities.

¹¹**For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.**

¹²As far as the east is from the west,
so far have you removed our transgressions from us.

¹³**As a father has compassion for his children,
so you have compassion for those who fear you, O LORD.**

SECOND READING

Romans 14:1-12

¹Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

¹²So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav-ing word.



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



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

GOSPEL

Matthew 18:21-35

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 18th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹Peter came and said to [Jesus], “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” ²²Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

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.

Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life

1 Where cross the crowd-ed ways of life, where sound the
 2 In haunts of wretch-ed-ness and need, on shad-owed
 3 From ten-der child-hood's help-less-ness, from hu-man
 4 The cup of wa-ter giv'n for you still holds the

cries of race and clan, a-bove the noise of
 thresh-olds dark with fears, from paths where hide the
 grief and bur-dened toil, from fam-ished souls, from
 fresh-ness of your grace; yet long these mul-ti-

self-ish strife, we hear your voice, O Son of Man.
 lures of greed, we catch the vi-sion of your tears.
 sor-row's stress, your heart has nev-er known re-coil.
 tudes to view the strong com-pas-sion in your face.

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

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. Online giving is available at felcc.org

SPECIAL MUSIC

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERTORY



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the
brim our cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the
prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,
and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

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

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

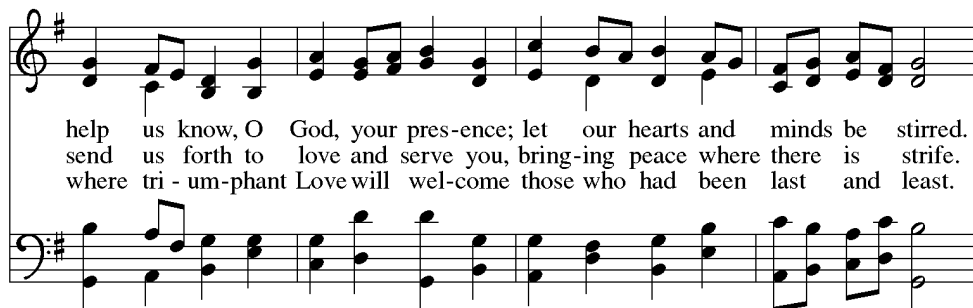
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

As We Gather at Your Table

Text & Music: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944, IN BABILONE, *Oude En Nieuwe Hollandse Boerenlities en Contradasen*, 1710; arr. Julius Röntgen, 1855-1932



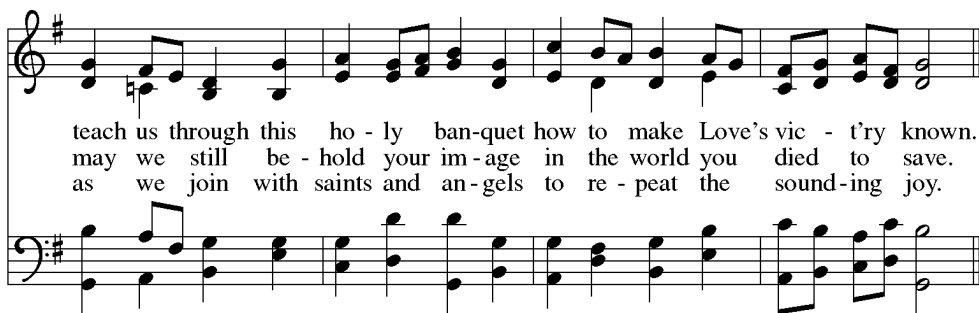
1 As we gath-er at your ta-ble, as we lis-ten to your word,
2 Turn our wor-ship in-to wit-ness in the sac-ra-ment of life;
3 Gra-cious Spir-it, help us sum-mon oth-er guests to share that feast



help us know, O God, your pres-ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
send us forth to love and serve you, bring-ing peace where there is strife.
where tri-um-phant Love will wel-come those who had been last and least.



Nour-ish us with sa-cred sto-ry till we claim it as our own;
Give us, Christ, your great com-pas-sion to for-give as you for-gave;
There no more will en-vy blind us nor will pride our peace de-stroy,



teach us through this ho-ly ban-quet how to make Love's vic-t'ry known.
may we still be-hold your im-age in the world you died to save.
as we join with saints and an-gels to re-peat the sound-ing joy.

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

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.

All Creatures, Worship God Most High!

Text: Francis of Assisi, 1182-1226; tr. Composite Music: Geistliche Kirchensinge, Köln, 1623



- 1 All crea-tures, wor-ship God most high! Sound ev - 'ry voice in earth and
- 2 Sing, broth - er wind; with clouds and rain you grow the gifts of fruit and
- 3 Sing, broth - er fire, so mirth-ful, strong; drive far the shad-ows, join the
- 4 All who for love of God for - give, all who in pain or sor - row



sky: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Sing, broth - er sun, in splen-dor
grain: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Dear sis - ter wa - ter, use - ful,
throng: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Dear moth - er earth, so rich in
grieve: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Christ bears your bur-dens and your



bright; sing, sis - ter moon and stars of night:
clear, make mu - sic for your Lord to hear: Al-le - lu - ia, al-le -
care, praise God in col - ors bright and rare:
fears; still make your song a - mid the tears:



lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia!

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

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Please remember in your prayers ...

Healing: Dan Blair (9/23), Joanne Fisher (10/4), Janet Friend (10/12), Trudy Gearhart (10/7), Leslie Gotwald (10/5), Denise Heinbaugh (9/28), Joyce, Shirley Martin (10/7), Dalton Paul, Edison Paul (9/21), Loanna Wagstrom (10/12)



Long Term Care: Pat Dent and Joe Pine

Military: Tawny & Brad Arnold, Rubens Paul, and Paul Whelan (Imprisoned in Russia).

ATTENDANCE

September 10

66 in person

9 on line



A special thank you to **Connie Wilkins** who serves as our pianist this morning. We appreciate your leading us as we praise the Lord with song.

CHURCH PHOTO DIRECTORY Pictures will be taken this week on Monday and Tuesday afternoon and evenings. Please be aware that the parlor and classrooms on the first floor will not be available for other use either of these days. There is still room online to sign up if you have yet to do this.



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. 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.



THE PACK & TROOP WILL BE SELLING POPCORN AFTER CHURCH

today (cash, checks, and credit cards will be accepted). The sales will help the scouts with camping and other activities.

COUNCIL MEMBERS NEEDED 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.



DINE TO DONATE SpiriTrust Lutheran Auxiliary invites you to dine at the Chambersburg Applebee's (1050 Wayne Ave, Chambersburg) on Monday, September 18th from 4 to 8PM. Applebee's donates 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.

DISCOUNT CARDS 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.

HAPPENINGS AT CAMP NAWAKA

FALL FOLIAGE DAY Sunday, October 22, 1:00 p.m.—6:00 p.m. at Nawakwa. Come for a fall afternoon! An evening meal provided. Register by October 13. \$15 per person (4 & under free).



QUILT AUCTION November 5 (Oct 29-Nov 3 Online Bidding) at Nawakwa 2:00 p.m. Silent Auction, 3:00 p.m. Live Auction. Dinner following Live Auction. All proceeds from the day benefit the Camping Corporation's Endowment Fund, making camping possible for generations to come! Please register for the in-person event by November 1. This is a free event, and includes an evening meal.

FINE ARTS AT FIRST Concert Organist Daniel Aune performing at First Evangelical Lutheran Church (corner of High and Bedford Street in Carlisle) on Sunday, September 17 at 4 p.m. Free admission/freewill offering/reception. For more information go to www.firstlutherancarlisle.org or call (717) 249-3310.



THIS WEEK AT FIRST

September 17 –September 24

Sunday	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School
	9:30 a.m.	Gods Work Our Hands Project
	10:45 a.m.	Worship w/Holy Communion
Monday	12:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.	Photo Directory
	7:00 p.m.	Scouts
Tuesday	12:00 p.m. – 7:30p.m.	Photo Directory
	7:00 p.m.	Scouts
Wednesday	8:30 a.m.	Ladies Breakfast at Family Table
	9:30 a.m.	LWR Quilters
Friday		ALIVE- Middle School Retreat
Saturday		ALIVE- Middle School Retreat
Sunday	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:45 a.m.	Worship
	2:00 p.m.	Installation of Pastor Godfred Effisah at Memorial Lutheran in Shippensburg



WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

	<u>September 17</u>	<u>September 24</u>	<u>October 1</u>
Lector:	Ralph Burdick	Dia Schumacher	Jane Love
Soundboard:	Scott Carbaugh	Bob Lawyer	Mark Nicholson
Communion			
Assistants:	Mary Gotwald Tim Gotwald Becky Hoover		Deb Fleegal Becky Hoover Tom Kriner
Greeters:	Dot Hammer Bob Hammer	Dot Hammer Bob Hammer	Bob Wildeson Nancy Wildeson
Altar Guild:	Barb Evans Karin Woods	Barb Evans Karin Woods	Barb Evans Karin Woods
Ushers:	Barb Evans Rick Gates Denny Love Mark Nicholson Rose Wilson	Barb Evans Rick Gates Denny Love Mark Nicholson Rose Wilson	Jim Brown Rick Gates Don Shoop Kathy Shoop Bob Wildeson



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Chambersburg Pa 17201
www.felcc.org
FELCCoffice@gmail.com
717-264-2015

Pastor

The Rev. Jane Nicholson

Pastoral Assistant

The Rev. Charles Kampmeyer

Director of Church Music

Freda J. Dorand, Deacon

Parish Administrator

Cheryl Christman

Treasurer

Sally Herritt

Financial Secretary

Carol McCoy

Custodian

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.