

Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
November 19, 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 November 19– November 26

Sunday	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:45 a.m.	Worship w/Holy Communion
	5:00 p.m.	Thankgiving Worship at Solomon's UCC
Monday	7:00 p.m.	Scouts
Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	Scouts
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.	Quilting
Thursday		Office Closed Happy Thanksgiving
Sunday	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:45 a.m.	Worship – Christ the King Sunday Herb Spoomer Preaching

Gathering

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, in whose image we are made,
who claims us and calls us beloved. **Amen.**

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy One, we confess that we are not awake for you.

We are not faithful in using your gifts.

We forget the least of our siblings.

We do not see your beautiful image in one another.

We are infected by sin

that divides your beloved community.

Open our hearts to your coming.

Open our eyes to see you in our neighbor.

Open our hands to serve your creation. Amen.

Beloved, we are God's children,
and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door to us.

Through † Jesus you are forgiven,


by Jesus you are welcome,

in Jesus you are called to rejoice!

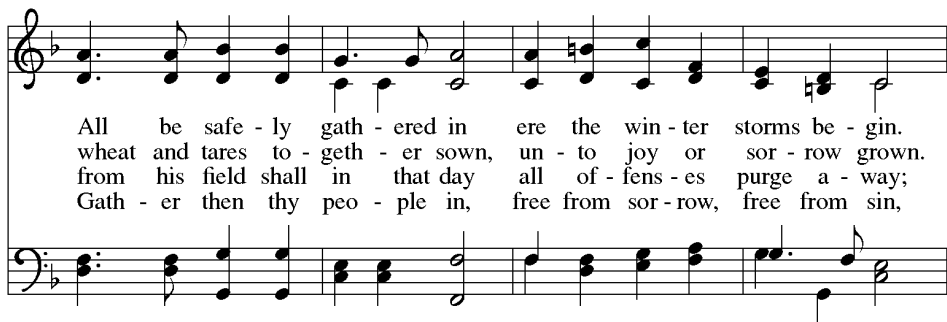
Let us live in the promises prepared for us
from the foundation of the world. **Amen.**

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

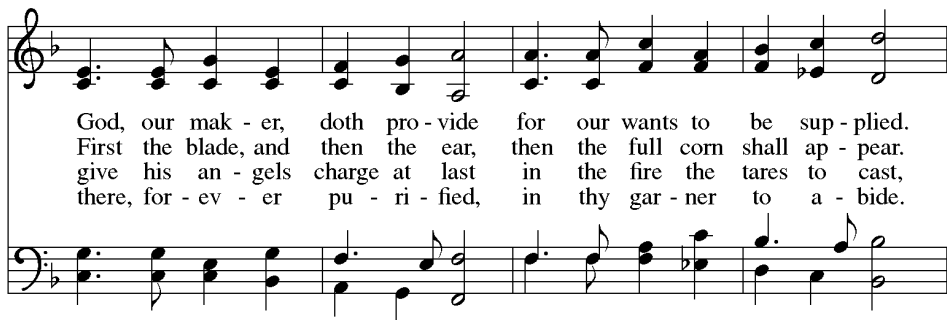
Text: Henry Alfrod, 1810-1871, alt. Muisc: ST. GEORGE'S, WNDSOR, George J. Elvey, 1816-1893



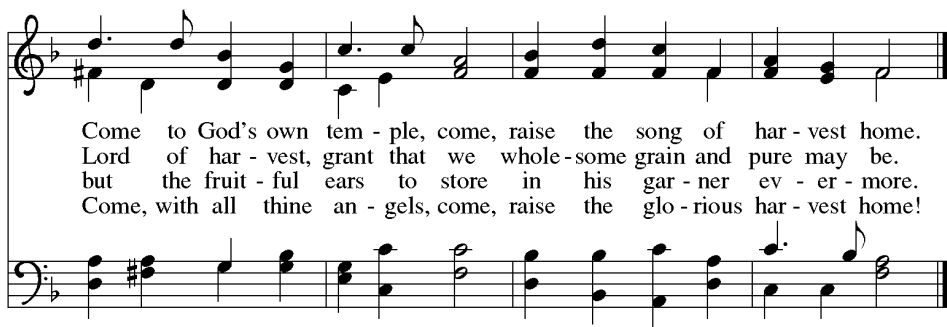
1 Come, ye thank-ful peo - ple, come; raise the song of har - vest home.
2 All the world is God's own field, fruit un - to his praise to yield;
3 For the Lord our God shall come and shall take his har - vest home;
4 E - ven so, Lord, quick - ly come to thy fi - nal har - vest home.



All be safe - ly gath - ered in ere the win - ter storms be - gin.
wheat and tares to - geth - er sown, un - to joy or sor - row grown.
from his field shall in that day all of - fens - es purge a - way;
Gath - er then thy peo - ple in, free from sor - row, free from sin,



God, our mak - er, doth pro - vide for our wants to be sup - plied.
First the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall ap - pear.
give his an - gels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast,
there, for - ev - er pu - ri - fied, in thy gar - ner to a - bide.



Come to God's own tem - ple, come, raise the song of har - vest home.
Lord of har - vest, grant that we whole - some grain and pure may be.
but the fruit - ful ears to store in his gar - ner ev - er - more.
Come, with all thine an - gels, come, raise the glo - rious har - vest home!

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

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb



who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich-es, wis - dom, and




strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

Refrain

 This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,


 al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of



 God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,



 glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Refrain

 This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,


 al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was


 slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Final refrain

 This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.


 Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Please be seated.

WORD

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READING

Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

⁷Be silent before the Lord GOD!

For the day of the LORD is at hand;
the LORD has prepared a sacrifice,
he has consecrated his guests.

¹²At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,
and I will punish the people
who rest complacently on their dregs,
those who say in their hearts,
“The LORD will not do good,
nor will he do harm.”

¹³Their wealth shall be plundered,
and their houses laid waste.
Though they build houses,
they shall not inhabit them;
though they plant vineyards,
they shall not drink wine from them.

¹⁴The great day of the LORD is near,
near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter,

the warrior cries aloud there.

¹⁵That day will be a day of wrath,
a day of distress and anguish,
a day of ruin and devastation,
a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness,
¹⁶a day of trumpet blast and battle cry
against the fortified cities
and against the lofty battlements.

¹⁷I will bring such distress upon people
that they shall walk like the blind;
because they have sinned against the LORD,
their blood shall be poured out like dust,
and their flesh like dung.

¹⁸Neither their silver nor their gold
will be able to save them
on the day of the LORD's wrath;
in the fire of his passion
the whole earth shall be consumed;
for a full, a terrible end
he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 90:1-8,12

¹Lord, you have been our refuge
from one generation to another.

²**Before the mountains were brought forth,
or the land and the earth were born,
from age to age you are God.**

³You turn us back to the dust and say,
“Turn back, O children of earth.”

⁴**For a thousand years in your sight
are like yesterday when it is past
and like a watch in the night;**

⁵you sweep them away like a dream,
they fade away suddenly like the grass:
⁶**in the morning it is green and flourishes;
in the evening it is dried up and withered.**

⁷For we are consumed by your anger;
we are afraid because of your wrath.
⁸**Our iniquities you have set before you,
and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.**

⁹When you are angry, all our days are gone;
we bring our years to an end like a sigh.

¹⁰**The span of our life is seventy years,
perhaps in strength even eighty;
yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow,
for they pass away quickly and we are gone.**

¹¹Who regards the power of your wrath?
Who rightly fears your indignation?

¹²**So teach us to number our days
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.**

SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

¹Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. ²For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³When they say, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! ⁴But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; ⁵for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. ⁶So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; ⁷for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. ⁸But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. ¹¹Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the



words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 25th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁴“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away.

¹⁶The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. ¹⁷In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money.

¹⁹After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ ²¹His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’

²²And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ ²³His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’

²⁴Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; ²⁵so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’

²⁶But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? ²⁷Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents.

²⁹For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. ³⁰As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ ”

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.

Sing to the Lord of Harvest



1 Sing to the Lord of har - vest, sing songs of love and praise;
2 God makes the clouds drop fat - ness, the des - erts bloom and spring,
3 Bring to this sa - cred al - tar the gifts his good-ness gave,



with joy - ful hearts and voic - es your al - le - lu - ias raise.
the hills leap up in glad - ness, the val - leys laugh and sing.
the gold - en sheaves of har - vest, the souls Christ died to save.



By him the roll - ing sea - sons in fruit - ful or - der move;
God fills them with his full - ness, all things with large in - crease;
Your hearts lay down be - fore him when at his feet you fall,



sing to the Lord of har - vest a joy - ous song of love.
he crowns the year with good - ness, with plen - ty and with peace.
and with your lives a - dore him who gave his life for all.

Text: John S. B. Monsell, 1811–1875, alt.

Music: WIE LIEBLICH IST DER MAIEN, Johann Steurlein, 1545–1613

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

Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

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

ANTHEM

For the Blessings of the Fruit

by Robert Wetzler

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

God of all goodness, generations have turned to you, gathered around your table, and shared your abundant blessings. Number us among them that, as we gather these gifts from your abundance, and give thanks for your rich blessings, we may feast upon your very self and care for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant. 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

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 al the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -



san-na. 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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.

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

There is a place for you at the banquet. Come and feast at Jesus' table.
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-communicating 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.

We Praise You O God

Text: Julia C.Cory, 1882-1963 Music: KREMSER, A. Valerius, *Nederlandsch Gedenckelanc*, 1626



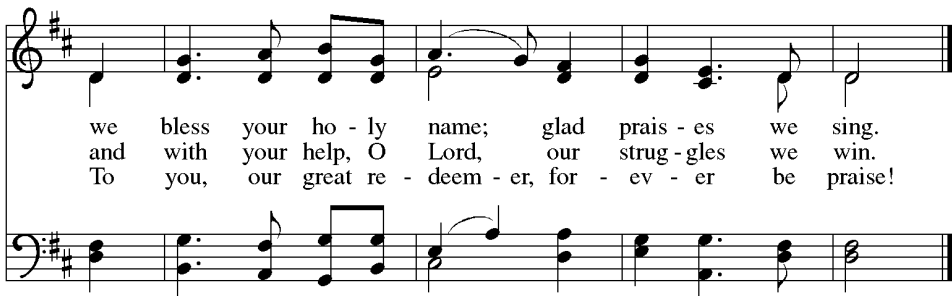
1 We praise you, O God, our re - deem - er, cre - a - tor;
2 We wor - ship you, God of our fa - thers and mo - thers;
3 With voice - es u - nit - ed our prais - es we of - fer



in grate - ful de - vo - tion our trib - ute we bring.
through tri - al and tem - pest our guide you have been.
and glad - ly our songs of thanks - giv - ing we raise.



We lay it be - fore you; we kneel and a - dore you;
When per - ils o'er - take us, you will not for - sake us,
With you, Lord, be - side us, your strong arm will guide us.



we bless your ho - ly name; glad prais - es we sing.
and with your help, O Lord, our strug - gles we win.
To you, our great re - deem - er, for - ev - er be praise!

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.**

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Lord Jesus, in this simple meal you have set a banquet. Sustain us on the journey, strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children, and give us glad and generous hearts as we meet you on the way. Amen.

Sending

BLESSING

The blessing of Sovereign God, ✠ Savior, and Spirit,
be with you today and always. **Amen.**

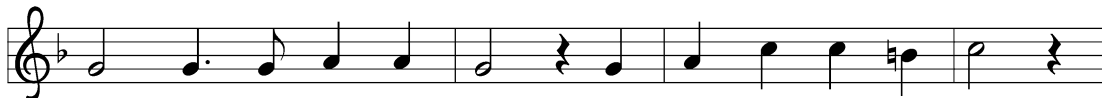
Now Thank We All Our God



1 Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voic - es,
2 Oh, may this boun-teous God through all our life be near us,
3 All praise and thanks to God the Fa - ther now be giv - en,



who won-drous things has done, in whom this world re - joic - es;
with ev - er joy - ful hearts and bless - ed peace to cheer us,
the Son, and Spir - it blest, who reign in high - est heav - en,



who, from our moth - ers' arms, has blest us on our way
and keep us all in grace, and guide us when per - plexed,
the one e - ter - nal God, whom earth and heav'n a - dore;



with count-less gifts of love, and still is ours to - day.
and free us from all harm in this world and the next.
for thus it was, is now, and shall be ev - er - more.

DISMISSAL

Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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CONGREGATION MEETING will be held today following 10:45 worship.

The purpose of this meeting will be to elect council members to serve a three year term beginning January 1, 2024.

Please remember in your prayers ...



Healing: Bonnie (12/7),
Celena Casseday (11/23),
Joanne Fisher (12/4),
Trudy Gearhart (11/28),
Denise Heinbaugh (11/28), Charles & Gertrude Kampmeyer (12/3),
Kathy McCrae (12/6), Sam Mull (12/14), Beverly Parks (11/25),
Joyce Ray (12/14), Paul Stockhousen (12/6),
Amber Stopyra (12/15).

Long Term Care: Pat Dent, Joe Pine and Garry Shatzer

Military: Tawny & Brad Arnold, Rubens Paul, and Paul Whelan

ATTENDANCE November 12 64 in person 16 on line

PASTORAL CARE Pastor Nicholson will be out of the office from Tuesday, November 21 through Monday, November 27. Pastor Warren Heintzelman will be available for pastoral emergencies. 717-830-5690. Pastor Herb Spomer will be leading worship on November 26.

THANKSGIVING WORSHIP Solomon's Lutheran, Solomon's United Church of Christ, and New Franklin Assembly of God have invited our congregation to join them for Thanksgiving worship this afternoon at 5:00 p.m. The service will be held at New Franklin Assembly of God Church, 2355 New Franklin Road, Chambersburg. Please bring a finger food to share afterward.

NTT FALL COLLECTION accepting sheets, sleeping bags, blankets and winter coats for men, women and children. New or gently used are welcome. Please launder used items. Please place donations in bins in Memorial Hall today.

NOVEMBER SPECIAL OFFERINGS are designed for Lutheran Disaster Relief. With the current conflict in Israel, there is no question of the need for funding for relief supplies for people on both sides of the Gaza Strip. Thank you for being as generous as you are able.



POINSETTIAS FOR WORSHIP If you would like to donate a red poinsettia for Christmas worship, please return a Poinsettia form with money to the church office by Sunday, November 26.

ADVENT STUDY AND PRAYER TIME This new group is forming for 3 weeks on Monday afternoons at 1:30 during Advent (December 4, 11, and 18). We will spend about 30 minutes with an advent devotion and scripture reading and then spend 30 minutes in prayer with one another. The weight of the world feels heavy right now as the pressures of life in our world, in our society, in our family, in our friendships, grow heavy. We pray for the Lord Jesus to come into our dark world and give us renewed hope. Join us in the parlor.



CANTATA PRACTICE FOR CHRISTMAS has begun. Please come to the rehearsal on Thursdays at 7 p.m. or see Freda for more information. The cantata will be presented on December 17 at our 10:45 a.m. worship service.



WELCA CHRISTMAS TEA will be held December 14 at 1:30 p.m. There will be a gift exchange and singing. All women of the church are invited for an afternoon of socialization.

BACKPACK PROGRAM is accepting canned fruit/fruit cups in light syrup, dried fruit: raisins, plums and cranberries for the month of November. Thank you for helping to meet the nutritional needs of children for risk of hunger during non-school hours.



WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

	<u>November 19</u>	<u>November 26</u>	<u>December 3</u>
Lector:	Adeline Hooper	Dia Schumacher	Jane Love
Soundboard:	Rose Wilson	Rose Wilson	Bob Lawyer
Communion Assistants:	Jim Brown Jane Love Karen Sloan		Karen Maclay Marlin Maclay Karen Sloan
Greeters:	Bev Rebok Peggy Stout	Bev Rebok Peggy Stout	Nancy Hamilton Kathy Shoop
Altar Guild:	Barb Evans Karin Woods	Barb Evans Karin Woods	Barb Evans Karin Woods
Ushers:	Rick Gates Gary Kennedy Marianne Kennedy Bill McCoy Carol McCoy	Rick Gates Gary Kennedy Marianne Kennedy Bill McCoy Carol McCoy	Rick Gates Gary Kennedy Marianne Kennedy Bill McCoy Carol McCoy



43 West Washington Street
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.