

# THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



September 21, 2025  
8 a.m.

**FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
East High and South Bedford Streets, Carlisle, Pennsylvania  
Church Office: (717) 249-3310  
[www.firstlutherancarlisle.org](http://www.firstlutherancarlisle.org)

*We worship, welcome, witness, teach and serve in the name of Jesus Christ.*

**Welcome!** We are happy you are here as we gather to be forgiven, fed and blessed by God for mission in the world.

**We especially welcome our guests – thank you for joining us this morning!** Please feel free to ask the usher or a neighbor in your pew if you have any questions about the service or our building. We invite you to provide your name and contact information using one of the blue cards in the pew rack. You may place the card in the offering box or give it to the pastor. Please join us again soon!

**We will be celebrating the sacrament of holy communion this morning.** We believe that in the bread and wine of holy communion we are offered the gift of Christ's body and blood. We welcome all baptized Christians to our Lord's table, where we are united with the saints of every time and every place.

Please come forward via the center aisle. Pick up a glass at the head of the aisle. **Starting at the baptismal font (left) side and filling in across to the pulpit (right) side,** please stand around the communion rail. After communing (**gluten-free wafers are available upon request**), return to your seat via a side aisle, placing your glass on the empty tray located there. Those not communing are encouraged to come forward for a blessing.

**If you have not yet recorded communion during this calendar year,** please complete a communion card (available in the pew rack) and place it in the offering box.

**We invite and encourage children of all ages to be present in worship!** Children's bulletins and activity bags are available at the High Street and Atrium entrances to the nave. If your little one needs a break during the service, you are welcome to go to our **nursery**. Exit the nave via the door to the Atrium (left front of nave by the baptismal font). Walk through the Atrium to the Christian Education wing. The nursery is the first room on the left. Worship is broadcast over a speaker in the nursery.

**Everything you will need for this service,** with the exception of the hymns, is included in this bulletin. The hymns are found in the back half of the red Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW). **Large print bulletins and hymns are also available.**

**Offering** may be placed in the box on the table at the center of the nave. Thank you for your faithfulness in giving!

**\*Indicates to please stand if you are able.**

**☒—congregational response**

Welcome and Announcements

✠ Gathering ✠

\*Confession and Forgiveness

☞ In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

☛ Amen

☞ God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

☛ Amen

*Please kneel or sit. Silence for reflection and self-examination*

☞ Most merciful God,

☛ **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen**

☞ In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God 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 *(please stand)*

\*Apostolic Greeting and Prayer of the Day

☞ 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.**

☐ Let us pray. God among us, we gather in the name of your Son to learn love for one another. Keep our feet from evil paths. Turn our minds to your wisdom and our hearts to the grace revealed in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

☑ Amen

## ✝ Word ✝

### **First Reading: Amos 8:4-7**

A reading from Amos. Hear this, you who trample on the needy, and bring to ruin the poor of the land, saying, “When will the new moon be over so that we may sell grain, and the Sabbath, so that we may offer wheat for sale? We will make the ephah smaller and the shekel heavier and practice deceit with false balances, buying the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals and selling the sweepings of the wheat.” The Lord has sworn by the pride of Jacob: Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

☐ The word of the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God.

### **Psalm 113**     *Read in unison.*

**Hallelujah! Give praise, you servants of the LORD; praise the name of the LORD. Let the name of the LORD be blessed, from this time forth forevermore.**

**From the rising of the sun to its going down let the name of the LORD be praised. The LORD is high above all nations; God’s glory above the heavens.**

**Who is like the LORD our God, who sits enthroned on high, but stoops to behold the heavens and the earth?**

**The LORD takes up the weak out of the dust and lifts up the poor from the ashes, enthroning them with the rulers, with the rulers of the people.**

**The LORD makes the woman of a childless house to be a joyful mother of children. Hallelujah!**

### **Second Reading: 1 Timothy 2:1-7**

A reading from First Timothy. First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. This is right and acceptable before God our Savior, who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God; there is

also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, who gave himself a ransom for all—this was attested at the right time. For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth; I am not lying), a teacher of the gentiles in faith and truth.

**L** The word of the Lord.

**G** Thanks be to God.

**\*Holy Gospel: Luke 16:1-13**

**P** The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the sixteenth chapter.

**G** Glory to you, O Lord.

Then Jesus said to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. So he summoned him and said to him, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management because you cannot be my manager any longer.’ Then the manager said to himself, ‘What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.’ So, summoning his master’s debtors one by one, he asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ He answered, ‘A hundred jugs of olive oil.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.’ Then he asked another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ He replied, ‘A hundred containers of wheat.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill and make it eighty.’ And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly, for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

“Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much, and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. If, then, you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? No slave can serve two masters, for a slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”

**P** The Gospel of the Lord.

**G** Praise to you, O Christ.

**\*Hymn of the Day ELW 678** *God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending*

**\*Apostles' Creed**

- P** Let us profess the faith in which we have been baptized.
- C** **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**

- A** Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need.  
*Each petition concludes:* **A** God of grace, **C** **receive our prayer.**
- P** We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend.
- C** **Amen**

**\*Sharing of Christ's Peace**

- P** The peace of Christ be with you always.
- C** **And also with you.**

*Please exchange the peace with those around you, saying: "Peace be with you" or responding "and also with you," as you offer a handshake or hug, nod, bow, or offer the peace sign.*

*Please remain standing.*

### \*Offertory Prayer

- A** Let us pray. Lord of the harvest, we return to you a portion of what you have given to us. Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who richly provides for us. Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- C** **Amen**

### ✠ Meal ✠

### \*The Great Thanksgiving

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**
- P** Lift up your hearts.
- C** **We lift them to the Lord.**
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C** **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**
- P** 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 all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:
- C** **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

### \*Eucharistic Prayer and Lord's Prayer

- P** Holy God, our Bread of life, our Table, and our Food, you created a world in which all might be satisfied by your abundance.

You dined with Abraham and Sarah, promising them life, and fed your people Israel with manna from heaven. You sent your Son to eat with sinners and to become food for the world.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his life given for us and his rising from the grave, we await his coming again to share with us the everlasting feast.

By your Spirit nurture and sustain us with this meal: strengthen us to serve all in hunger and want, and by this bread and cup make of us the body of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

**☩ Amen. Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen**

#### **\*Invitation to Communion**

**☩** Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. Come to this meal of mercy.

#### **\*Lamb of God**

**☩ Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace. Amen**

**Distribution** (*Please see detailed instructions in front of bulletin.*)

### **✠ Sending ✠**

#### **\*Post-Communion Blessing and Prayer**

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

**☩ Amen**

**☩** Let us pray. O God, through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants. Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need. We ask this in Jesus' name. **☩ Amen**

**\*Blessing**

☐ The God of righteousness, who gives justice to the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry, who sets the prisoners free, ✝ bless you now and forever.

☑ Amen

**\*Sending Hymn ELW 710** *Let Streams of Living Justice*

**\*Dismissal**

☐ Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

☑ Thanks be to God.

**Postlude**

*Wir glauben all an einen Gott*

Samuel Scheidt



**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The service and the image are from *Sundays and Seasons.com*, copyright © 2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #24684. New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition, © copyright 2021, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

**~ Serving in Worship ~**

**Presiding Minister:** The Rev. Lisa M. Leber

**Assisting Minister:** Jeff Stuby

**Cantor:** Dr. Stan Wicks

**Lector:** Lauren Engle

**Communion Setup/cleanup:** Marsha Lorenz

**Usher/greeter:** David Fitzsimons

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## PRAYER LIST

Dan	Mike Hicks	George Pierce
Leah	Deb Hofnagle	Frances Robinson
Melissa	Susan Johnson	Kristin Shaffer
Steve	Michael Kienzle	Vicki Spedsard
Sue	Mike Longenecker	Alecia Staley
Zach	Lois Newell	Leilani Stamm
Lea Barbush	Mike & Nancy Miller	Dale Stitzel
Wendee Booher	The Tom Miller family	David Stum
Cliff Campbell	Gary Newton	John & Marilyn Vernon
Susan Germak	Sam Orner	Robert Zimmerman
Geoff & Marilyn Hicks	Autumn Petrovich	

Names can be added to or removed from the prayer list available each Sunday in the High Street narthex and Atrium (upper level) or by calling the church office. Names will be kept on the prayer list for one month and may be re-submitted.

## THIS WEEK AT FIRST LUTHERAN

Today		Holy Communion	10:30 a.m.
		Adult Faith Formation - <i>room 22</i>	9:15 a.m.
Mon.	Sept. 22	Offering Counters – <i>room 16</i>	9:30 a.m.
Tues.	Sept. 23	LWR Quilting Group – <i>room 18</i>	9:30-11 a.m.
		Finance Committee – <i>room 16</i>	5 p.m.
		Overeaters Anonymous – <i>room 17</i>	6:30 p.m.
Wed.	Sept. 24	Alcoholics Anonymous – <i>room 17</i>	6:30 p.m.
Thurs.	Sept. 25	Staff Meeting	1:30 p.m.
		Alcoholics Anonymous – <i>room 17</i>	6:30 p.m.
		Chancel Choir Rehearsal – <i>Choir room (lower level)</i>	7-8:15 p.m.
Fri.	Sept. 26	Weight Management Support Group – <i>room 17</i>	8 a.m.
Sat.	Sept. 27	AA Women’s Big Book Study – <i>room 17</i>	10 a.m.
Sun.	Sept. 28	Holy Communion	8 and 10:30 a.m.
		Adult Faith Formation - <i>room 22</i>	9:15 a.m.
		Dawn Bennett Solo Recital	3 p.m.

**+Attendance last week: Sunday, September 14, 8 a.m.: 31, 10:30 a.m.: 92 (123)**

**+Time to celebrate!** There will be a Special Afters on Sunday, October 12, to honor Pastor Leber for the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her ordination (October 13, 1995). Please plan to attend and celebrate this milestone of outstanding service to Christ's church. This will also be a great opportunity to welcome the new members who will be received during worship that morning.

**+Chancel Choir rehearsals have resumed! It's not too late to join us!** We meet in the choir room (lower level) Thursdays at 7 p.m. If you are interested and/or have questions, please email our Cantor, Dr. Stan Wicks, at [musician@firstlutherancarlisle.org](mailto:musician@firstlutherancarlisle.org).

**+SOLO RECITAL: First Lutheran member Dawn Bennett** will perform a solo recital here at First next Sunday, September 28, at 3 p.m. in the nave. The music will be musical theatre repertoire. All are invited to attend.

**+All people interested in being received as new members of First Lutheran** are asked to attend orientation on Sunday, October 5, from 6-8 p.m. in room 16. Whether you are a lifelong Lutheran transferring from another congregation, new to our denomination, or somewhere in between, you will find the introduction to our congregation and review of basic Lutheranism helpful. **New members will be received at both services on Sunday, October 12.** Please be in touch with Pastor Leber for more information or to sign up at [pastor@firstlutherancarlisle.org](mailto:pastor@firstlutherancarlisle.org) or (717) 215-6055.

**+Our next blood drive is Saturday, October 25, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. in Festal Hall.** Pre-register for our drive (or another local drive) by going to the American Red Cross website (<https://www.redcrossblood.org>), entering "firstlutherancarlisle" as the sponsor code or "17013" (to find all local drives), and then click on "Make an appointment". Pre-registration is strongly encouraged but not required. **Please call the church office if you can cover a volunteer shift at the canteen!** Remember - you can donate once every eight weeks - eight weeks from October 25 was August 25!

**+Opportunities at Camps Nawakwa & Kirchenwald and the Wittel Farm this fall:**

- ❖ October 18 – Harvest Festival at Wittel Farm, 10 a.m. -2 p.m. (fee - \$15)
- ❖ October 19 – Fall Foliage Day at Nawakwa, 1-6 p.m. (fee - \$15)
- ❖ October 26 – Fall Foliage Day at Kirchenwald, 1-6 p.m. (fee - \$15)
- ❖ November 2 – Annual Quilt Auction at Nawakwa, 2 p.m. (register by Oct. 29)
- ❖ November 7-9 – Women’s Craft Retreat at Nawakwa,  
(register by Nov. 1; fee - \$185)

*For more information or to register for any of these events, contact the camping office at (717) 677-8211 or visit [www.LutheranCamping.org](http://www.LutheranCamping.org).*

**First Evangelical Lutheran Church**

Office Hours: Monday – Thursday, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.  
(Closed for lunch from 12-12:30 p.m.)  
Friday, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

The Rev. Lisa M. Leber, Pastor	(717) 215-6055	<a href="mailto:pastor@firstlutherancarlisle.org">pastor@firstlutherancarlisle.org</a>
The Rev. Richard G. Lorenz, Pastoral Assistant	(717) 249-3310	
Dr. Stanley Wicks, Cantor	(717) 249-3310	<a href="mailto:musician@firstlutherancarlisle.org">musician@firstlutherancarlisle.org</a>
Hope Miller, Financial Secretary	(717) 249-3310	<a href="mailto:busadmin@firstlutherancarlisle.org">busadmin@firstlutherancarlisle.org</a>
Robin Orner, Office Manager	(717) 249-3310	<a href="mailto:secretary@firstlutherancarlisle.org">secretary@firstlutherancarlisle.org</a>