

THE NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



October 4, 2026
8 a.m.

FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
East High and South Bedford Streets, Carlisle, Pennsylvania
Church Office: (717) 249-3310
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**

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth.

C Amen

P Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

Please kneel or sit.

Silence for reflection and self-examination

P Compassionate God,

C we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen

P Hear this good news: We have peace with God through ✝ Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace.

C Amen *(please stand)*

***Apostolic Greeting and Prayer of the Day**

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray. Beloved God, from you come all things that are good. Lead us by the inspiration of your Spirit to know those things that are right, and by your merciful guidance, help us to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen

✝ Word ✝

First Reading: Isaiah 5:1-7

A reading from Isaiah. I will sing for my beloved my love song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. He dug it and cleared it of stones and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it and hewed out a wine vat in it; he expected it to yield grapes, but it yielded rotten grapes.

And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. What more was there to do for my vineyard that I have not done in it? When I expected it to yield grapes, why did it yield rotten grapes?

And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. I will make it a wasteland; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it.

For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah are his cherished garden; he expected justice but saw bloodshed; righteousness but heard a cry!

📖 The word of the Lord.

🙏 **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 80:7-15 *Read in unison.*

**Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.
You have brought a vine out of Egypt; you cast out the nations and planted it.
You cleared the ground for it; it took root and filled the land.
The mountains were covered by its shadow and the towering cedar trees by its boughs.**

**You stretched out its tendrils to the sea and its branches to the river.
Why have you broken down its wall, so that all who pass by pluck off its grapes?
The wild boar of the forest has ravaged it, and the beasts of the field have grazed upon it.**

**Turn now, O God of hosts, look down from heaven;
behold and tend this vine; preserve what your right hand has planted.**

Second Reading: Philippians 3:4b-14

A reading from Philippians. [Paul writes:] If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal, but I press on to lay hold of that for which Christ has laid hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I have laid hold of it, but one thing I have laid hold of: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal, toward the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

***Holy Gospel: Matthew 21:33-46**

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the twenty-first chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] “Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a winepress in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went away. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first, and they treated them in the same way. Then he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’ So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of

the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.”

Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the scriptures: ‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord’s doing, and it is amazing in our eyes’?”

“Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces its fruits. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.”

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

📖 The Gospel of the Lord.

👏 Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Leber

***Hymn of the Day ELW 727** *Lord Christ, When First You Came to Earth*

***Apostles’ Creed**

📖 Let us profess the faith in which we have been baptized.

👏 **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 and Blessing of the Quilts**

- A** Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

Each petition concludes: **A** Hear us, O God, **C** **your mercy is great.**

- P** Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

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. God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always.

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:

- ☞ 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**

- P** Christ invites you to this table. All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

***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**

- P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
- ☞ Amen**
- A** Let us pray. Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.
- ☞ Amen**

***Blessing**

- P** The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus. The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit. The God of grace ✠ bless you now and forever.
- ☞ Amen**

***Sending Hymn ELW 835** *All Creatures, Worship God Most High!*

***Dismissal**

- A** Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace. **☞ Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

All Creatures Worship God

Paul Manz

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✝ Serving in Worship ✝

Presiding Minister: The Rev. Lisa M. Leber

Assisting Minister: Richard Wood

Cantor: Dr. Stan Wicks

Lector: Jeff Stuby

Communion setup/cleanup: Rob and Fay McDaniel

Communion bread baker and communion assistant: Hope Miller

Usher/greeter: Bill Gillingham

ANNOUNCEMENTS

+We offer prayers this morning for the family and friends of Ann Jordan, who died on September 27. Services for Ann will be private at the convenience of the family. *+Requiescat in pace+*

PRAYER LIST

Dan	Sophia Faris	Ron & Donnie Parsons
Karen	Ann Glavin	John & Pat Peckham
Kathy & Ed	Gene Glavin	George Pierce
Jim & Jen	Don Grell	Helen Scott
Lisa & Carl	Pat Hummel	Ann Selden
Mark & Della	Michael J.	Kristin Shaffer
Betty Bennett	Larson Jones	Alecia Staley
Beth Chestnut	Lori L.	Jarred Tritt
Jay Chestnut	Linda Oyler	Susie Wagner
Alyssa Faris	Kay Parsons	Jeannie & Tommy Wray
Family and friends of Ann Jordan		

+During our prayers this morning, we will bless 101 quilts made by our quilters for Lutheran World Relief this past year. Thanks to them and to all who donate quilt material! **We invite you to donate to LWR's "quilt & kit shipping fund" today** using the special offering envelopes available at the High Street narthex and Atrium entrances. Checks should be made payable to First Lutheran Church with "LWR Shipping" on the memo line.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST LUTHERAN

Today		Adult Faith Formation – <i>room 16 (lower level)</i>	9:15 a.m.
		Holy Communion	10:30 a.m.
		Blessing of the Animals – <i>outside</i>	12:15 p.m.
Mon.	Oct. 5	Offering Counters – <i>room 16</i>	9:30 a.m.
Tues.	Oct. 6	Overeaters Anonymous – <i>room 17</i>	6:30 p.m.
Wed.	Oct. 7	Alcoholics Anonymous – <i>room 17</i>	6:30 p.m.
Thurs.	Oct. 8	Staff Meeting	1:30 p.m.
		Alcoholics Anonymous – <i>room 17</i>	6:30 p.m.
		Chancel Choir – <i>Choir room (lower level)</i>	7-8:15 p.m.
Fri.	Oct. 9	55+ Potluck Luncheon – <i>Festal Hall</i>	12-1:30 p.m.
Sat.	Oct. 10	AA Women's Big Book Study – <i>room 17</i>	10 a.m.
Sun.	Oct. 11	Holy Communion	8 and 10:30 a.m.
		Adult Faith Formation – <i>room 16 (lower level)</i>	9:15 a.m.
		Second Sunday Gathering (<i>youth</i>)	11:45 a.m.

+Today at 12:15 p.m. we will gather outside for a Blessing of the Animals. Join us for this brief litany followed by pizza. If you don't think your dog, turtle, bird, hamster, donkey or ??? will be comfortable in a crowd, you are welcome to bring a picture of them instead. All are invited as we observe this long-standing practice of celebrating the gift of God's creatures on the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi.

+Adult Faith Formation: This morning and Sundays, October 11 & 18, Pastor Leber continues her series about the first book in our bible, using resources from Amy-Jill Levine's just-published book *Genesis: A Beginner's Guide to the Beginning*. The class is in room 16 on the lower level from 9:15-10 a.m.

+Our monthly 55+ Potluck Luncheon will be held this Friday, October 9, at 12 noon in Festal Hall. Sherry Collins from Community CARES will be our guest speaker. Bring an entrée, side or dessert (either store bought or homemade is fine!) and join us!

+All are invited to a hymn sing dedicated to the history and diversity of American hymnody in celebration of the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. "A Festival of American Hymns" will be hosted here **at First Lutheran on Sunday, October 18 at 4 p.m.** This free event, sponsored by the Church Music Institute and coordinated by our cantor and other Carlisle area church musicians, will be led by Michael Burkhart.

+Attendance: Sunday, September 27, 8 a.m.: 36, 10:30 a.m.: 78 (114)

+Downtown Carlisle's Spooky Saturday will be Saturday, October 24 from 12 noon-3 p.m. Over a hundred kids and their families usually stop by First during this annual event, so we need 1) Halloween candy to share and 2) volunteers to help share it! Sign up for a one-hour shift by calling the church office (717-249-3310). Donations of candy are due in the office on or before Friday, October 23. Thank you!

+SOUP KITCHEN: First Lutheran is serving the evening meal at My Brother's Table on **Sunday, October 25. If you can help provide food, please call the church office to sign up. Items may be brought in any time on or before Sunday morning, October 25.** Thank you for helping to feed and provide fellowship to our neighbors in need! Items currently needed: #10-size cans (117 oz.) of baked beans (4), #10-size cans (108 oz.) of applesauce (4), dinner rolls (6 dozen), cookies (16 dozen).

+First Lutheran recently received a large gift designated to be applied to the principal of our outstanding mortgage with Orrstown Bank, which financed *Building to Serve All God's Children*, the 2018-2000 renovation and construction project that resulted in the Atrium addition, increased accessibility throughout the building, and addressed a number of deferred and other maintenance projects (including a new boiler, new roofs on the Christian Ed wing and Martin Luther room, new A/C units in the nave and offices, etc.).



In light of this gift, Congregation Council has voted to 1) encourage congregation members and friends to make final donations to *Building to Serve All God's Children* and 2) to supplement the gift with current cash reserves to pay off our mortgage in full this fall - many years earlier than projected! This would eliminate debt service related to *Building to Serve All God's Children* going forward, save thousands of dollars of interest, and position us well for new ministries and future capital projects.

Building to Serve All God's Children envelopes are available at the nave entrances and around the building. **We will celebrate our congregation's faithful generosity and the retirement of our debt on Sunday, November 15, during worship and then during a reception at 11:30 a.m.!**