



# Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Fremont, Ohio 43420

Pastor Tim Miller

93.1FM

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**13th Sunday after Pentecost**

**September 7, 2025**

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Setting 3 with Holy Communion

\*Congregation please stand as you are able.

## **Introduction**

Called to contemplate the cost of discipleship, we might be helped by translating Paul's request to Philemon into our prayer of the day: Refresh my heart in Christ. Strengthened by the company and forgiveness of Christ in holy communion and recalling God's grace in remembrance of baptism, we can be strengthened in this hour to "choose life"—to choose life in God as our own.

## **Prelude:**

*Let All Things Now Living*

**Lois R. Hill**

## **Welcome & Announcements:** Joys and Concerns

Signing of the Pew Register by all present.

## **Blessing of the Backpacks**

## **\*Opening Hymn:**

*O God, My Faithful God*

**ELW 806**

## **GATHERING**

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

## **\*Greeting**

**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.

### **\*Confession and Forgiveness**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,  
our maker, our helper, and our keeper.

**C: Amen.**

P: Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin  
in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Merciful and loving God,

**C: we are your stiff-necked people.**

**We trample on the needy.**

**We grumble about your grace to others.**

**We turn away from the poor.**

**Have mercy on us and forgive our sins.**

**Rejoice over us as ones who were lost  
and have been found.**

**Amen.**

P: Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful.  
Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners.  
You who were lost have been found.

In the name of ✝ Jesus, your sins are forgiven!

**C: Amen.**

## \*Canticle of Praise

Assisting minister



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

## **\*Prayer of the Day**

P: Let us pray.

C: **Direct us, O Lord God, in all our doings with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## **WORD**

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

### **First Reading:**

### **Deuteronomy 30:15-20**

*Moses speaks to the Israelites, who are about to enter the land promised to their ancestors. In this passage, he lays out the stark choice before them: choose life by loving and obeying the LORD; or choose death by following other gods.*

R: A reading from Deuteronomy, the 30<sup>th</sup> chapter.

<sup>15</sup> “See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. <sup>16</sup> If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess.

<sup>17</sup> But if your heart turns away and you do not hear but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, <sup>18</sup> I declare to you today that you shall certainly perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. <sup>19</sup> I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, <sup>20</sup> loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him, for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.”

The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## **Responsive Reading:**

## **Psalms 1**

- <sup>1</sup> Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked,  
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!
- <sup>2</sup> **Their delight is in the law of the LORD,  
and they meditate on God's teaching day and night.**
- <sup>3</sup> They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due  
season, with leaves that do not wither;  
everything they do shall prosper.
- <sup>4</sup> **It is not so with the wicked;  
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.**
- <sup>5</sup> Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes,  
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.
- <sup>6</sup> **For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,  
but the way of the wicked shall be destroyed.**

## **Second Reading:**

## **Philemon 1-21**

*Onesimus, a new Christian and a man enslaved by Philemon, has helped Paul, who is in prison. Paul writes this letter to his friend Philemon to encourage him to receive Onesimus, upon his return, as a sibling in Christ.*

R: A reading from Philemon.

<sup>1</sup> Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,  
To our beloved coworker Philemon, <sup>2</sup> to our sister Apphia, to our  
fellow soldier Archippus, and to the church in your house:

<sup>3</sup> Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus  
Christ.

<sup>4</sup> I thank my God always when I mention you in my prayers,  
<sup>5</sup> because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the  
Lord Jesus. <sup>6</sup> I pray that the partnership of your faith may become  
effective as you comprehend all the good that we share in Christ. <sup>7</sup> I  
have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love,  
because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my  
brother.

<sup>8</sup> For this reason, though I am more than bold enough in Christ to  
command you to do the right thing, <sup>9</sup> yet I would rather appeal to you  
on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man and now also  
as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. <sup>10</sup> I am appealing to you for my child,  
Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment.

<sup>11</sup> Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me. <sup>12</sup> I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. <sup>13</sup> I wanted to keep him with me so that he might minister to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel, <sup>14</sup> but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. <sup>15</sup> Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back for the long term, <sup>16</sup> no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

<sup>17</sup> So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. <sup>18</sup> If he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge that to me. <sup>19</sup> I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. <sup>20</sup> Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. <sup>21</sup> Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.

The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **\*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.

### **\*Gospel**

### **Luke 14:25-33**

*Jesus speaks frankly about the costs of discipleship. Those who follow him should know from the outset that completing the course of discipleship will finally mean renouncing all other allegiances.*

**P:** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 14th chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

**P:** <sup>25</sup> Now large crowds were traveling with [Jesus], and he turned and said to them, <sup>26</sup> “Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot

be my disciple. <sup>27</sup> Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. <sup>28</sup> For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? <sup>29</sup> Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, <sup>30</sup> saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’ <sup>31</sup> Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? <sup>32</sup> If he cannot, then while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. <sup>33</sup> So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

### **Children’s Sermon**

#### **Sermon**

**\*Sermon Hymn:**    *Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said*        **ELW 667**

#### **\*Apostles’ 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**

R: Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

R: We pray for the church to follow in your ways, that it may be a witness to your love for all people. Help us choose all that is life-giving and confront the forces of death. God of grace,

**C: receive our prayer.**

R: We pray for creation, that it may be cherished and nurtured. Sustain farmlands, animals, and waters; restore places affected by calamities; and shield coastlands from rising seas. God of grace,

**C: receive our prayer.**

R: We pray for those in authority. Grant them wisdom to govern justly and compassion to care for the marginalized. Equip them for actions that further the common good. God of grace,

**C: receive our prayer.**

R: We pray for those who are sick, hungry, unhoused, or lonely, *especially those we name at this time (Pause for people to be named)*. May they find healing through your love and the care of those around them. Lead us to be your hands and feet in the world. God of grace,

**C: receive our prayer.**

R: We pray for this congregation, that we may be united in love and faith. Refresh our hearts in Christ, and deepen our support of one another. We pray that our sharing of faith may transform lives. God of grace,

**C: receive our prayer.**

R: We thank you for those who have died and now dwell with the saints. Surround them with your divine mercy, that they find peace and rest in your loving embrace. God of grace,

**C: receive our prayer.**

R: We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend.

**C: Amen.**

### **MEAL**

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

### **\*Sharing of the Peace**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**



**\*Offertory:**        *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*  
**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;**  
**Praise him, all creatures here below;**  
**Praise him above, ye heav'nly host;**  
**Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

**\*Offering Prayer**

P: 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.**

**\*The Great Thanksgiving**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

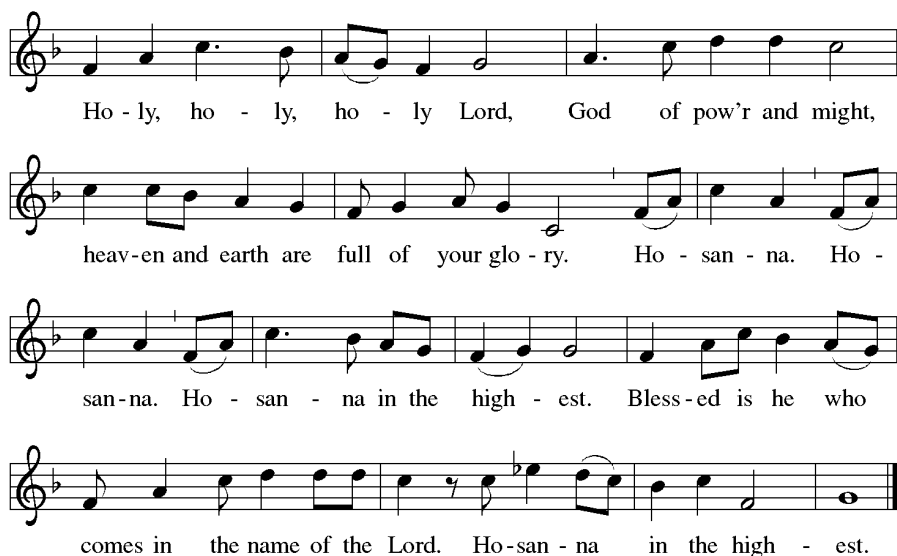
P: Lift up your hearts.

**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:



### **\*Thanksgiving at the Table**

- P: Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,  
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,  
who preached good news to the poor,  
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.
- P: 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.
- P: 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.
- P: Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,  
we await his coming in glory.

P: Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,  
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,  
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be all honor and glory, now and forever.

C: Amen.

### **\*Lord's Prayer**

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

C: **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**

P: Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them.  
Come to this meal of mercy.

### **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.

## **Distribution of Communion**

*Communion will be continuous. The ushers will invite you to come forward by the center aisle. You will be handed the bread with the words, "The Body of Christ given for you." You may respond with "Amen" or "Thanks be to God!". Step to the Communion Assistant and take the cup. They will speak the words, "The Blood of Christ shed for you." You may respond with "Amen" or "Thanks be to God!" Empty cups may be placed in the basket as you return to your seat by the side aisle.*

*If you prefer gluten- free bread, please let the Pastor know. If you prefer grape juice, please let the Communion Assistant know. If you prefer not to receive or have children who have not yet received, please let the Pastor know and he will offer a blessing.*

## **Communion Hymns:**

**ELW 810 O Jesus, I Have Promised**

**ELW 798 Will You Come and Follow Me**

## **\*Post Communion Blessing**

**P:** May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C: Amen.**

## **\*Prayer After Communion**

**P:** 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.

**C: Amen.**

## **SENDING**

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

## **\*Blessing**

**P:** 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.

**C: Amen.**

**\*Closing Hymn:** *Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways* ELW 772

**\*Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

C: Thanks be to God.

**\*Postlude:**

*Westminster Abbey*

**Mahlon Balderston**

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**WELCOME TO WORSHIP!** Thank you, God, for the gift of grandparents and spiritual mentors — for their steady love and faith passed down through generations (2 Timothy 1:5). Help us treasure their wisdom and honor their lives through how we live.



**THIS YEAR, WE ARE LOOKING TO FILL 3**

**COUNCIL POSITIONS:** Vice President, Trustee, and Elder. Please prayerfully consider serving in one of these capacities, and if you feel the Spirit moving you to do so, please let one of the council members or Pastor Tim know.



**GAMES – GAMES – GAMES!**

This Tuesday, September 9<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 p.m. – Fellowship Hall

Bring your favorite game(s) and come to play. We will have a great time! Don't miss out on our night of fun!!

**ALL ARE WELCOME!!!**

Sign up today on the sheet on the women's bulletin board!

We will have our September General Meeting at

6:30 p.m. in the lounge and then LET THE GAMES BEGIN!!!

## **THE 2025 RALLY DAY GAMES ARE BEING HELD TODAY, SEPT. 7<sup>TH</sup>.**

Come and show off your skills and have a lot of fun. The opening ceremonies start at 9:15am with breakfast, which will give you plenty of energy to compete in the Games. Make sure you dress for competition, bring your running shoes and go for the GOLD! If you aren't much for competition, come out and be a cheerleader and support the team.

Blessing of the Backpacks will also be on September 7<sup>th</sup> at both services. Students bring your bookbags, chromebook cases, or pencil pouches and teachers bring your work totes, lunch sacks or briefcases to receive a beginning of the school year blessing. You will also receive a bag tag as a reminder that your Faith Family prays for you and supports you all year!

2 Timothy 4:7 "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race. I have kept the faith" We are always on the winning team with Jesus as our coach and teammate!

**NWOS WOMEN OF THE ELCA 2025 GATHERING** will be **Sept. 26-27** at St. Mark Lutheran Church, 315 College Drive, Bowling Green, Ohio. Friday from 1:00-7:30 p.m. and Saturday from 9-3 p.m. Join us for Bible Study, Break-out Sessions, Worship Service, Friday night Program, Business Meeting, Fun, Food and Fellowship and a Silent Auction. Theme is: BE STILL, which encompasses both rest and listening. The Bible Studies for the weekend will be based on these. Break-out Sessions on Contemplative Prayer, Bible Journaling and Party Planning. Hotel accommodations are at the Holiday Inn, Bowling Green. Registration deadline for hotel rooms was August 19<sup>th</sup>. Deadline for Gathering only registration is September 12<sup>th</sup>. For a registration form, please inquire in the church office. Bring your Bible, a Reusable water bottle and Dress Casual.

## **LET'S BUILD BEDS – COMMUNITY MISSION PROJECT COMING TO FREMONT – SEPTEMBER 13, 2025!**

Let's Build Beds is an organization that builds beds for children who may be sleeping on sofas or floors.

**On Saturday, September 13, 2025**, LIFT congregations (Grace Lutheran, Hayes Memorial UMC, St. John's, St. Mark, and Trinity UMC) will meet at Grace Lutheran, build beds, and deliver them to children in our community! **Mark your calendar** and Let's Build Beds and help make some smiling faces! **To Volunteer, Donate, or for more info** contact Maureen Pump at [maureenpump2022@gmail.com](mailto:maureenpump2022@gmail.com) or 419-332-1558.

## **FAITH LUTHERAN FOOD DRIVE**

**FALL INTO GIVING: HELP FILL THE PANTRY** is an event being organized by the Christian Mission and Outreach Committee to help stock the shelves at our local Sandusky County Food Pantry during the month of September. We will be placing a table and a cart in the narthex to aid in the collection of food items. After speaking with one of the pantry's managers, she gave me a paper that listed the center needs. The grocery products needed most are:

**CANS OF TOMATO SOUP –**

**CANS OF CHICKEN NOODLE SOUP**

**CANS OF SPAGHETTI SAUCE**

**BOXES OF SPAGHETTI**

**CANNED FRUIT... ESPECIALLY APPLESAUCE**

**BOXES OF CEREAL**

**CONTAINERS OF PEANUT BUTTER**

**BOXES OF SALTINE CRACKERS**

**BOXES OF PANCAKE MIX**

**BOXES OF MACARONI AND CHEESE**

**CANNED VEGETABLES...ESPECIALLY GREEN BEANS OR  
CORN**

**CANS OF SPAGHETTI O's**

**CANS OF TUNA OR CHICKEN**

**CONTAINERS OF OATMEAL**

**BOXES OF POTATO FLAKES (INSTANT)**

**Please try to purchase items in boxes, cans, or plastic containers.**

**No glass. Thanks.**

All the groceries donated will be then transported to the pantry at the end of September. Thank you for your love and kindness with this endeavor.

Your donations are greatly appreciated!

**CROGHAN TRUST & INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT:** Join us for insights into the **One Big Beautiful Bill** on Wednesday, **September 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.** at the Fremont Elks Lodge, 436 Croghan St., Fremont. This informative session will help community members understand how the changes made in the One Big Beautiful Bill may impact you and your taxes. Following the presentation, Croghan's wealth management experts will be available to answer any questions you may have.



## **SOUPER SOUP COOKOFF AND SILENT AUCTION:**

**WHAT:** Any kind of soup – No Peppers please

**WHEN:** Saturday, October 4, 2025 at 5 pm

**WHERE:** Faith Fellowship Hall

**COST:** \$10.00 for adults and  
\$5.00 for kids 10 and under

Tickets sold at door only

**UP TO 12 ENTRANTS:** Sign-up between July 27<sup>th</sup> and September 14<sup>th</sup>.

We request that you be present to win.

**RESTRICTIONS:** **MUST NOT USE PEPPERS IN SOUP - Except**  
**Black Ground** – due to some who are allergic to them.

**SOUP HERE BY:** 4:00 P.M. in a crock pot with no names or  
identifying marks on it.

**SERVING:** Women's Board Members will serve Soup in  
Styrofoam bowls with entrant's number on it.

**TO ATTEND, EAT AND VOTE:** Sign up by Sunday, September 28<sup>th</sup> –  
not required – simply to give us an  
idea of how many to expect.

**VOTING:** Each person attending will be given 1 ticket to write  
their number one choice on and drop into a box.  
Only one ticket will be issued per person.

**PROVIDED:** Hot Dogs, Buns, Condiments, Crackers, Tableservice  
Drinks: Lemonade, Iced Tea (Sweetened &  
Unsweetened), Hawaiian Punch, Water, Ice

**PROCEEDS:** To Flag City Honor Flight (For veterans to view  
monuments in Washington, D.C.) Free to Veterans, 1 Guardian can fly  
with them at a cost of \$400. They do 4 flights per year at a cost of  
\$150,000 per flight to take 80 Vets and their Guardians.

**WANTED:** Salads and Desserts to add to meal.  
Sign-up sheet will be out closer to the time.

**PRIZE:** \$50.00 Visa Gift Card, Framed Certificate and  
Apron to sign to be displayed at the church AND  
“All year bragging rights”

**SILENT AUCTION:** **Wanted** – Groups or members to help donate  
Baskets/Items, Craft items, or Services you could  
provide someone to be included in auction. Sign  
up between July 27<sup>th</sup> – Sept. 28<sup>th</sup>

**BE CREATIVE AND HAVE FUN WITH IT!**



**PLEASE JOIN US AS WE BEGIN A NEW SEASON OF MUSICAL WORSHIP!**



**Faith's Senior Choir**, directed by Darla Brown, will begin rehearsals on **Wednesday, September 3rd!** Rehearsals run from **7:30-8:30 p.m.** in the **Choir room** which is down the hall on the right. Faith's Senior Choir leads in the hymn singing and provides an anthem for each 10:30 a.m. Sunday worship service, starting September 7th through

May. The choir may participate in additional services during the Advent and/or Lenten seasons. New singers are always welcome to join!



**Faith's Handbell Choir** invites all persons wishing to praise our God and Savior with the beautiful sounds of handbells. Prior musical experience is helpful but not necessary to share your interest in heavy (and light) metal music with this fun and friendly group. Rehearsals will begin on **Wednesday, September 3rd**, in the **Fellowship Hall** and will run from **6:30-7:20**

**p.m.** This choir usually performs one anthem each month from Sept./Oct. through May.



**Faith's Praise Choir**, directed by Becky Fox, will also rehearse on Wednesdays, from **7:30-8:00 p.m.** and will meet in the **Sunday School Gathering** room. This

joyful group of singers presents a contemporary anthem periodically for the **8:00 a.m.** Sunday worship service, starting in September and running through May. New singers are always welcome to join!

You may contact Darla at 419.680.6717 or Becky at 419.618.6948 if you have any questions and would like more information. We hope to see you soon...

*"as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." Ephesians 5:19-20 (NRSV)*

## **ASSISTING TODAY**

**Pastor:** Rev. Tim Miller    **Organist:** Parm Boyer

**Sr. Choir Director:** Darla Brown

**8:00 a.m.**

**10:30 a.m.**

**Greeter:** Jim & Kim Smith    Randy and Darla Brown

**Lector:** Roy Burgoon    Barb Kocsis

**Acolyte:** Caleb Seibert    Rachel Wasserman

**Communion:** K. Smith/A. Gazdecki    B. Kocsis & M. Garlock

**Counters:** Ann Waggoner\* & Anne Gerner

**Fellowship Time Host:** Jackie Seibert & Sheri Ripley

**Altar Guild:** Marg Schwartz, Laurie Krynock & Ann Waggoner

**Ushers:** Roy & Shelli Burgoon    Phil & Carol Trick

## **ASSISTING NEXT WEEK**

**Pastor:** Rev. Tim Miller    **Organist:** Parm Boyer    **Pianist:** Becky Fox

**Sr. Choir Director:** Darla Brown    **Flautist:** Marilyn Ring

**8:00 a.m.**

**10:30 a.m.**

**Greeter:** John & Judi Neill    Laurie Krynock

**Lector:** Lillian Harder    Laurie Krynock

**Acolyte:** Lillian Harder

**Communion:** M. Reiselt/A. Miller    C. Trick & A. Wagner

**Counters:** Dave Kocsis\* & Judi Neill

**Fellowship Time Host:**

**Altar Guild:** Marg Schwartz, Laurie Krynock & Ann Waggoner

**Ushers:** Jim & Kim Smith

## **PRAYING DAILY**



**For healing and hope:** Paul Antesberger, Joan Bolen, Patty Carrigan, Mary Ann Diekman, Denny Fahle, Millie Fetterman, Della Humbarger, Denny Krumnow, Bill Leutenegger, Dean May, Stan Moyer, Nancy Mylander, Sandie Reed, Ken & Gloria Root, Bob Schneider, Bill Seibert, Janet Tressler, Linda Woessner, Dorothy Hartford, Terri Titkemeier.

**For our Military:** Noah Egbert, Troy Halfhill, Jade Kayser, Daniel Linder, Tony Rozzi, Christopher Templeton, & Joshua Tooman.

**For our Bishops:** Bishop Christian Ndossa, Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, and NWOS Bishop Daniel Beaudoin and Staff

**For our partner congregation in Bumila, Tanzania**

**And its pastor:** Pastor Peter Magasi

## **FAITH ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK OF – Sept. 7 to Sept. 14**

### **Sunday**

Sept. 7----- 8 & 10:30 a.m.    Worship with Holy Communion  
                                 9:15 a.m.    Sunday School & Fellowship Time  
**RALLY DAY!**

### **Monday**

Sept. 8-----8 a.m.    Prayer & Conversation at Wendy's  
                                 8 a.m.    Men's Group in Fellowship Hall  
                                 10 a.m.    Valley View Tea Time with God  
                                 11:30 a.m.    FLCW Visitation at Bob Evans

### **Tuesday**

Sept. 9-----6:30 p.m.    FLCW General Meeting in Lounge  
                                 7:00 p.m.    GAME NIGHT in Fellowship Hall

### **Wednesday**

Sept. 10-----6:30 p.m.    Bell Choir  
                                 7:30 p.m.    Sr. Choir  
                                 7:30 p.m.    Praise Choir

### **Thursday**

Sept. 11-----3 p.m.    Christ Care

### **Friday**

Sept. 12-----5 p.m.    Hall Reserved – Judi Neill

### **Saturday**

Sept. 13-----9:15 a.m.    Christ Care  
                                 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.    Hall Reserved – Judi Neill

### **Sunday**

Sept. 14----- 8 & 10:30 a.m.    Worship with Holy Communion  
                                 9:15 a.m.    Sunday School & Fellowship Time

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SUNDAY, AUGUST 31, 2025: ATTENDANCE: 89 – OFFERING: \$2,222.27

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**GOSPEL MESSAGE**  
**September 7, 2025**  
**13<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

**What Is Most Important**

When someone comes to be baptized, they are often joined by family and friends who gather around the font and promise to love and support them as they grow in the faith. In the baptismal waters, God does something wonderful and profound: God connects us with Christ's saving grace. In this moment we are made part of a new community that flows from God's incredible love.

How dissonant it is to read Jesus' words from Luke's gospel today with this sort of an occasion in mind. "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple" (14:26). How can hating family be a faithful response to God's divine grace and love? How can this be the way to live into the baptismal promises of love and care?

We know that Jesus loves the whole world: every person, creature, and molecule reverberates with God's own heart. Scripture and sermons and songs of the faith proclaim time and again: we all are recipients of God's love! And when we are baptized, we are unapologetically claimed as God's beloved. Such belovedness is the very foundation of our identity in faith.

Perhaps we can take Jesus' words here seriously without taking them literally: Christ's love for us is more important than even our closest ties to friends, family, or chosen family. Christ's love is more important than any paycheck we receive or how much cash we keep in our pockets. Jesus prioritizes life-changing love over all other loyalties we might have. When we are baptized, our lives are grounded in this countercultural compassion, justice, and care. Our relationship with God may indeed strain some of our other relationships, but perhaps it is exactly the sort of love that renews our hearts and truly transforms our world.