



1656 Lincoln Way, McKeesport, PA 15131 + (412) 673-2296 + faithwhiteoak.com

Lectionary 23
September 7, 2025
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.

Presiding Minister: Rev. Randy Marburger

Assisting Minister: Loran Bohman

Lector: Katrina Syska

Organist: Drew Pogyor

Altar Care: Loran Bohman

Altar Flowers: is given to the glory of God by Loran Bohman in memory of his parents, Wenzel and Marilyn Bohman.

The Sanctuary Light: is given to the glory of God by Loran Bohman in memory of his parents, Wenzel and Marilyn Bohman.

The Columbarium Light: is given to the glory of God by Loran Bohman in memory of his parents, Wenzel and Marilyn Bohman.

Hymns for Sunday

Entrance Hymn	ELW 757 All My Hope on God Is Founded
Hymn of the day	ELW 667 Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said
Communion Hymns	ELW 802 Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus
	ELW 810 O Jesus, I Have Promised
Sending Hymn	ELW 660 Life High the Cross

Communion- If you need assistance or are unable to come to the communion rail, stay in your pew and the Pastor will come to you. If you are unable to receive either the consecrated bread or wine, receiving either one is a complete and valid reception.

Membership- There are many ways to be connected with our congregation. Everyone is welcome to participate in any and all congregation activities; and anyone baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is welcome to Holy Communion. We welcome your request for membership.

August 31, 2025 Attendance: 35

Bible Study Attendance: 17

Offerings:

Weekly Need: \$3,300.00

August 31, 2025: \$1830.00

Announcements:

Dear Members of Faith,

This notice is to inform you of a special congregational meeting to be held following the 10:00am Liturgy on September 21, 2025. All members are requested to be in attendance to make a decision on calling the chosen candidate for our next pastor.

Dr. Wendy Farone, who has been unanimously recommended by your call committee and congregational council, will deliver the sermon. Her candidate profile and introductory letter will be available for review. Following worship, Synod Vice President Barbara Nugent will conduct a special meeting and vote to extend a call to Dr. Farone.

In addition to the congregational meeting, it is hoped that many will be in attendance for a pizza and ice cream social on Saturday, September 20, 2025, from 5pm to 7pm. Dr. Farone will be present to share in conversation and answer any questions you may have.

Grace and Peace,

George Nelson

Vice President, Faith Lutheran Church

It's with sadness that we announce the passing of fellow Faith Lutheran Church member, **Jim Hoffman**. He passed away on Sunday, August 31st.

White Oak Senior Activities for the month of September.

- Yoga on Mondays and Wednesdays at 11 am.
- Coffee hour Thursdays-9/11 & 9/25 at 9:30 am
- Women's Self Defense Class (free)- Wednesday 9/17 at 1pm. Taught by Joe Hoffman
- Gentle Exercise Class (free)- Tuesdays 9/2, 9/23, & 9/30 at 2:30 pm
- Cardio Drumming Class (registration only)- Tuesdays 9/23 & 9/30 at 1pm
- Monthly Meeting-The Pittsburgh Belairs-SOLD OUT-Wednesday 9/10 at 1 pm

Understanding Church Podcast

<https://www.belc.org/podcast/>

Next Council Meeting: September 18, 2025, at 12:30 pm

Flea Market: Saturday September 27, 2025, from 9am-2pm. Bring items September 22-25. Someone will be here from 10am- 2pm and 6pm-8pm. Will need volunteers for sorting during the previously stated hours.

Paint Party: Sunday September 28, 2025, from 4-7 pm in church social hall. \$45 per person and there’s a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.

Bible Storytelling News for the Upcoming Week:

Every Tuesday at 10 am we will be following along with the Our Daily Bread devotionals until we resume the book of Hebrews at a later date. Come join us!

Prayer List July - September 2025

<u>Nikki</u> Amhurst	<u>Teresa</u> M	<u>Dolores</u> Winters
<u>Becky</u> Ball	<u>Cindy</u> Mains	<u>Theresa</u> Zell
<u>Jean</u> Bickerstaff	<u>Vervaine</u> Mains	
<u>Jean</u> Bodenlos	<u>Birdie</u> McMillan	
<u>Barry</u> D	<u>George</u> McMarlin	
<u>Jamie</u> Cummings	<u>Helen</u> Pula	
<u>Bill</u> Grimm	<u>Mark</u> Scott	
<u>Shelley</u> Gessner	<u>Tracy</u> Scott	
<u>Eric</u> Harshman	<u>Maxine</u> Smith	
<u>Renee</u> K	<u>Fran</u> Thompson	
<u>Ellio</u> Keiser	<u>Corey</u> Rhodes	
<u>Nancy</u> Kimling	<u>Doris</u> Vaniel	
<u>Bill</u> Kimling		

Synod Weekly Announcements:

Bishop Installation Service
Saturday, October 18: 1 PM
Berkeley Hills Lutheran Church
517 Sangree Road, Pittsburgh, PA, 15237

By the grace of Almighty God, your prayers and presence are requested at a celebration of the rite of installation for Pastor Melissa Stoller into the ministry of Synod Bishop.

Join the Choir: Volunteer to be a part of the synod-wide choir at the installation service by [signing up here.](#)

Pray Without Ceasing Initiative

Some members of the ELCA have launched a beautiful new initiative: Pray Without Ceasing — an opportunity for the people of God to unite in prayer at a shared time each week. [Please use this sheet](#) to list the prayer gatherings you currently host or attend. Once collected, this living resource will be made available for all in our synod to explore and participate in. Whether you: host a weekly Zoom prayer meeting, gather in person for prayer, or observe a designated prayer time during the week We invite you to share these opportunities with others across our synod. Let us join together in lifting up our voices — for ourselves, our communities, our country, and our world. We are a praying people, and through this initiative, others will be empowered to join that prayer with joy and thanksgiving.

Upcoming Commemorations

Peter Claver, priest, missionary to Colombia, died 1654

Tuesday, September 9, 2025

Born into Spanish nobility, Claver became a Jesuit missionary, and served in present-day Colombia. His ministry was focused on the enslaved people who arrived there. He gave them food and medicine, learned their dialects, and taught them Christianity.

John Chrysostom, Bishop of Constantinople, died 407

Saturday, September 13, 2025

John was a priest in Antioch and an outstanding preacher. His eloquence earned him the nickname "Chrysostom" ("golden mouth"). Appointed bishop of Constantinople, seat of the empire, he criticized corruption in the court. As a result, he was exiled by the empress.