

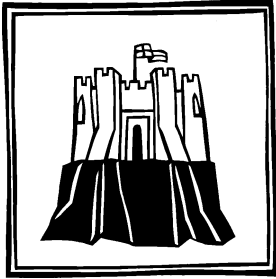


FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

WHITE OAK,
PENNSYLVANIA

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

Reformation Sunday October 26, 2025 Home, Sweet Home



Whether you have lived in several places or very few, you probably have a method for transforming a space to live into a home. Maybe you put family photos on the walls, set out mementos, or spread a favorite quilt on the bed. These touches are important if we want to feel like we belong in a new space.

Jesus offered the gift of belonging to people who newly believed in him, but they had a hard time accepting it.

He said if they would continue, or abide, in his word, they would be his disciples, know his truth, and be set free. They would receive the gift of belonging to his household forever.

To us the listeners' response is surprising, as if the new believers had shut their ears as soon as they heard Jesus say, "The truth will make you free." They didn't want to accept that there was anything they needed to be set free from. On a deeper level, they didn't want to believe that someone else would need to set them free. Jesus' words invite us to reflect on where our freedom comes from, and where we belong, as his disciples.

On Reformation Sunday, we celebrate how the Holy Spirit is constantly reforming the church, the community of Jesus' disciples. We give thanks for the gospel message that Jesus saves us from sin and death through his cross and resurrection. We don't have to earn our salvation; we can simply trust that Jesus is the one who makes it possible. That's how we receive genuine freedom—as a gift of God's grace. Thanks to Jesus, we have a permanent home. No matter how many times we move, we abide with Jesus forever. This festival day encourages us to keep listening to Jesus' word, growing in faith as his disciples, and giving thanks that with him, we are always at home.

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- Pastor:** Dr. Wendy S. Farone
Assisting Minister: Melanie Thomas
Lector: Genevieve Price
Organist: Drew Pogyor
Altar Care: Loran Bohman
Altar Flowers: are given to the glory of God by Jessica Wurm in honor of her mother’s birthday, Debbie Smith.
The Sanctuary Light: is given to the glory of God.
The Columbarium Light: is given to the glory of God by Barbara Jo Cush in memory of her aunt, Barbara L Beech.

Hymns for Sunday

- Entrance Hymn** **ELW 652 All My Built On A Rock**
- Hymn of the day** **ELW 665 Rise, Shine, You People**
- Communion Hymns** **ELW 512 Lord, Let My Heart be Good Soil**
 ELW 815 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light
- Sending Hymn** **ELW 504 A Mighty Fortress is Our God**

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 congregation activities, and anyone baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is welcome to Holy Communion. We welcome your membership request.

October 19, 2025 Attendance: 33

- Offerings:**
 Weekly Need: **\$3,300.00**
 October 19, 2025: **\$1,240.00**

Faith Announcements:

Faith has a new YouTube channel! All worship services will be located there from now on. Please like and subscribe!

www.youtube.com/@FaithLutheranChurchWhiteOakPA

Pastor Wendy has a new email address to match her new title! She will be checking her old email address for the next month or so, just in case. New email: flcpastorwendy@gmail.com

**Ordination of Dr. Wendy Farone
Thursday, October 30: 7 PM
Bethlehem Lutheran Church
1719 Mt Royal Blvd, Glenshaw, PA 15116**

Invitation >>>

Your prayers and presence are requested as Dr. Wendy Farone is ordained into the Ministry of Word and Sacrament. Ministers are invited to vest and process; the color of the day is red.

We are collecting Halloween candy that we are going to hand out on Halloween in the back parking lot. There is a container on the table in the Narthex for donated candy. We will be bagging it on **Oct 28th** after Bible Study.

On November 16th at 3 pm, Faith will be hosting a local contemporary a cappella group named Vocal Steel! This event is open to Faith, friends, and our community. Since there are only 120 seats available for this performance, please reserve your spot. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex.

Pastor's Podcast- New episode!
Understanding Church: Children in Church
<https://www.belc.org/podcast/> or wherever you listen to podcasts

Oct/Nov Council Meeting: November 13, 2025, at 12:30 pm

Bible Storytelling News for the Upcoming Week:
We welcome back Pastor Wendy Farone! We will continue the book of Hebrews on Tuesday. Come join us!

Prayer List October - December 2025

<u>Nikki</u> Amhurst	<u>John</u> Konik & Family
<u>Katie</u> Bachinger	<u>Teresa</u> M
<u>Becky</u> Ball	<u>Birdie</u> McMillan
<u>Jean</u> Bickerstaff	<u>Georgina</u> McMarlin
<u>Jean</u> Bodenlos	<u>Margie</u> Miller
<u>Barry</u> D	<u>Marlene</u> Newman
<u>Jamie</u> Cummings	<u>Helen</u> Pula
<u>Kara</u> Eaton	<u>Corey</u> Rhodes
<u>Shelley</u> Gessner	<u>Mark</u> Scott
<u>Rose</u> Gombas	<u>Tracy</u> Scott
<u>Heather</u> Grantz	<u>Sandy</u> Seitz
<u>Bill</u> Grimm	<u>Maxine</u> Smith
<u>Jerry</u> Groves	<u>Amanda</u> T
<u>Eric</u> Harshman	<u>Steven</u> T
<u>Renee</u> K	<u>Theresa</u> Zell
<u>Ken</u> K	<u>Nick</u>
<u>Ellio</u> Keiser	<u>Dominick</u> Family
<u>Nancy</u> Kimling	<u>Mundy</u> Family
<u>Bill</u> Kimling	

Synod Weekly Announcements:

Installation of Bishop Stoller

On Saturday, October 18, Rev. Melissa Stoller was installed as bishop of our synod. The sanctuary of Berkeley Hills Lutheran Church overflowed with ministers, lay people, bishops from other synods of the ELCA, heads other Church denominations, friends, and family members. Hundreds more joined by livestream and at watch parties hosted by congregations throughout our synod. Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry presided over the installation and many individuals from our synod participated in various parts of the service.

In addition to the vows a bishop takes when installed, we were also asked to make promises:

“People of God, representatives of this synod, will you receive Melissa as a servant of God and a shepherd in the church of Jesus Christ? Will you pray

for her, help and honor her for her work's sake, and in all things strive to live together in the peace and unity of Christ?"

We will, and we ask God to help us.

Installation of Pastor Halle Kluever

Sunday, November 2: 3PM

Hope Lutheran Church

8070 Rowan Rd, Cranberry Twp, PA 16066

[Invitation >>](#)

Your prayers and presence are requested as Pastor Halle Kluever is installed as associate pastor of Hope Lutheran Church, Cranberry. Ministers are invited to vest and process; the color of the day is red.

Nicene Creed Study Guide

resources.elca.org/ecumenical-and-inter-religious-relations/nicaea-study-guide-full-document/

For the 1,700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea, the Office of the Presiding Bishop commissioned a study guide on the council that would be ideal for congregations and classrooms. ELCA theologians Ashley Hall (Creighton University) and Man Hei Yip (Wartburg Seminary) consider the content of the creed, the historical circumstances surrounding it and its implications for the church today, including for ecumenical (e.g., Lutheran-Orthodox) and interreligious (e.g., Christian-Jewish) relations. The guide offers units on postcolonial perspectives and the role of women in the council.

Supporting Community Members Facing SNAP Changes

The SWPA Synod Hunger Elimination Action Team is working to respond to the changes to hunger programs in our area. According to this [announcement regarding changes to SNAP eligibility](#), those adults between 18-65 who remain eligible will need to carefully document and communicate the reasons they should be continued on SNAP to the Commonwealth's Department of Human Services.

Community Announcements:

Sampson Mills Presbyterian Church has asked us to partner with them on a Christmas cantata, which the Church Choirs Unite group will perform on December 14th. If anyone is interested, please let Jessica or Pastor Wendy know, and we can provide sheet music and practice recordings.

White Oak Senior Activities for October:

Yoga-Mondays & Wednesdays at 11 am

Monthly Meeting-Wednesday, Oct 15th at 1 pm

-Guest Speaker Cyndie Cariloi

-Allegheny ADA's office

-Topic: Scamming

Coffee Hour- Thursdays, Oct 9th & 23rd at 9:30 am

Free Seniors Self Defense Class-Wednesday, Oct 22nd at 1 pm

Free Gentle Exercise Class- Tuesdays, Oct 7th, 14th, 21st, and 28th at 2:30 pm

Cardio Drumming (Must pre-register)- Tuesdays, Oct 7th, 14th, 21st, and 28th at 2:30 pm

Upcoming Commemorations

Philipp Nicolai, died 1608; Johann Heermann, died 1647; Paul Gerhardt, died 1676; hymnwriters

Sunday, October 26, 2025

These great hymnwriters all worked in seventeenth-century Germany in times of war and plague. Nicolai, a pastor, lost 1,300 parishioners to plague, 170 in one week. He wrote "O Morning Star, how fair and bright" and "Wake, awake, for night is flying." Heermann's hymns, including "Ah, holy Jesus," often express the emotions of faith. Gerhardt, perhaps the greatest Lutheran hymnwriter, was a pastor in Berlin.

Simon and Jude, Apostles

Tuesday, October 28, 2025

We know little about these apostles. Simon is listed as "the zealot" or Cananean in New Testament lists. Jude, also called Thaddeus, asked Jesus at the last supper why he had revealed himself to the disciples but not to the world.

Reformation Day

Friday, October 31, 2025

By the end of the seventeenth century, many Lutheran churches celebrated a festival commemorating Martin Luther's posting of the Ninety-five Theses, a summary of abuses in the church of his time. At the heart of the reform movement was the gospel, the good news that it is by grace through faith that we are justified and set free.

All Saints Day

Saturday, November 1, 2025

The custom of commemorating all of the saints of the church on a single day goes back at least to the third century. All Saints Day celebrates the baptized people of God, living and dead, who make up the body of Christ. On this day or the following Sunday, many congregations will remember the faithful who have died during the past year.

