



FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

WHITE OAK,
PENNSYLVANIA

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

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost October 11, 2026 Welcomed In



A crowd gathered in the church basement like they did every third Thursday of the month. They walked past the kitchen window. They grabbed their plates. They filled up cups of ice water and coffee and swung by the dessert table on their way to folding chairs situated around circular folding tables throughout the room. Conversations bubbled up as old friends greeted each other around the free meal provided, as it was every month. Everyone was welcome, no questions asked.

This image of a free meal in the church basement, attended by any and all comers, is reminiscent of the wedding feast the king gives in today's parable. When those who are invited fail to show up, the king sends his servants out into the entire surrounding countryside to bring to the meal any and all who will attend. The king doesn't check credentials; the king doesn't ask questions. The joy of the wedding feast is open to all.

The parable tells us of one guest without a wedding robe, who winds up outside the joy of the feast. This can cause us to worry or despair. Do we have a wedding robe fit for the kingdom of heaven? What happens to us if we do not? Our baptism in Jesus, however, reminds us that we have no need to fear. We have been clothed not with a robe but with the grace of Jesus, which assures us that we, who have been gathered into the feast of the reign of God, have a place and an inheritance among God's people. Gathered around that table of grace, we too are sent to share the good news and welcome others into the reality of God's reign.

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Pastor: Rev. Dr. Wendy S. Farone
Assisting Minister: Melanie Thomas
Lector: Sandy Smith
Organist: Drew Pogyor
Altar Care: Sandy Smith
Altar Flowers: are given to the glory of God by Sandy Smith in memory of her mother, Ann McCracken.
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 the Rev. Bruce Bruhwel.

Entrance Hymn **ELW 531** **The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing**

Hymn of the day **ELW 523** **Let Us Go Now to the Banquet**

Communion Hymns **ELW 522** **As We Gather at Your Table**
 ELW 362 **At the Lamb’s High Feast We Sing**

Sending Hymn **ELW 547** **Sent Forth by God’s Blessing**

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 4, 2026 Attendance: 32
Bible Study Attendance: 20

Offerings:	
Monthly Need:	\$11,095.00
September Offerings:	\$8,426.00
<u>Thrivent Dividends:</u>	<u>\$4,432.29</u>
Total:	\$12,858.29

Faith Announcements:

With grateful hearts and great joy, we are delighted to announce the engagement of Jessica Wurm and Justin Dzubinski! 🙏 ❤️ We give thanks to God for bringing them together and for the love they share. Please join us in celebrating this wonderful news and in praying for them as they joyfully prepare to begin their life together in marriage. Wedding incoming and everyone is invited!

A heartfelt thank-you to our Bible Study Group for helping put together the prayer pillows. Your time and willingness to serve are a wonderful blessing to our church family. We are grateful for the love and prayers that go into each pillow, and for the encouragement they will bring to those who receive them.

Test your Bible knowledge and have some fun with our new crossword puzzle! Stop by the bulletin board, give it a try, and see how many clues you can solve.

Halloween Candy Drive 😊

We are collecting Halloween candy to fill treat bags for children in our community to enjoy while trick-or-treating! If you would like to help, please bring individually wrapped candy. Don't have time to shop? Monetary donations are also welcome and will be used to purchase candy for the treat bags. Thank you for helping us share a little sweetness and make Halloween special for the children in our community!

Mark your calendars for another Spaghetti Dinner on Saturday, October 17th, from 4- 7 p.m.—adults: \$10; children: \$5. Dinner comes with spaghetti and meatballs, bread, salad, dessert, and a drink. Dine-in and take-out are available. Take-out will not include a drink. Sign-ups for spaghetti dinners will be posted. Set up, bake sale, servers, kitchen help, kitchen prep, and clean-up are all needed to make spaghetti dinners a success.

Coffee Hour: Reformation Sunday, October 25th after worship, Pastor Wendy will share a presentation on Martin Luther in Germany, with snacks provided!

New Wooden Flower arrangement, cross-making class! We need at least 10 people! On Sunday, November 1st at 11:30 am, we will have a wooden flower class to decorate items of our choice! Lunch will be provided. There is a sign-up sheet and pictures of the crafts in the back hallway for those interested. Update: Please have payments in by October 18th. Make all checks out to Faith Lutheran Church.

Bruce Campbell will be here on Wednesday, November 11th, at 12:00 p.m. to give a presentation on different health insurance programs. Anyone interested is welcome to attend and learn more about the available options.

Seeking Ad Hoc Stewardship Committee Members

As our Refresh and Renew projects continue, unexpected discoveries have increased costs beyond the original bids. To stay on track and complete all three phases, we are forming a short-term Ad Hoc Stewardship Committee to grow the Property Improvement Fund. If you have a heart for stewardship and would like to help raise the funds needed through creative ideas, please join us! No prior experience required — just a willingness to serve for a limited time. *If you are interested in serving in this important work, please text or email Judy Haliko at 412-298-7258 or judyhaliko01@gmail.com.* Thank you for helping strengthen our church home!

A Sacred Place of Remembrance

Our church columbarium provides a quiet and sacred place to remember and honor those we love within the sanctuary and the community of faith that has meant so much to so many. A limited number of columbarium spaces are currently available for those who may wish to make thoughtful arrangements for themselves or a loved one. If you would like to learn more, we invite you to contact the church office or Pastor Wendy. We would be honored to speak with you and answer any questions with care and sensitivity.

Bible Study Updates!

There will be no Bible Study on Tuesday, October 13th.

We've got some great Bible Study topics coming up, so mark your calendars and join us! **October 20th:** Pastor Wendy will continue to lead us on a deep dive into the **Armor of God!** We'll explore what Scripture has to say about putting on the full armor of God and how these powerful images apply to our everyday lives. Bring your Bible, bring your questions, and bring a friend! There's always room at the table for one more. We hope you'll join us!

Ambassador Committee Meeting: Thursday, November 5th, 2026, at 6:30 pm.

Council Meeting: October 15, 2026, at 12:30 pm.

Pastor's Podcast- New episode!

Understanding Church: Pastor Wendy Visits Luther in Germany

<https://www.belc.org/podcast/> or wherever you listen to podcasts.

Welcome, Visitors and Guests,

We are glad you are here! We welcome you to participate fully in worship and to engage in all church activities. If you are considering joining as a member or have any questions, please get in touch with Pastor Wendy Farone at (412) 443-9122 (c), the Church Office at (412) 673-2296, or email flcpastorwendy@gmail.com. We look forward to speaking with you soon. Everyone needs a church home and family. We hope to be yours!
Pastor Wendy

Considering Membership at Faith Lutheran?

We're grateful you've been worshiping with us, and we'd love to walk with you as you explore becoming part of our Faith Lutheran family. Membership is a way of rooting yourself in a community of prayer, service, and shared discipleship. It's also a chance to learn more about our Lutheran tradition, our mission in White Oak, and the many ways you can use your given gifts to serve God and neighbor.

Synod Announcements: (further information at swpasynod.org)

Faith & Civic Life Study Group

Thursdays, now through October 22

7 PM on Zoom

Our Church encourages Lutherans to be civically engaged as people of faith. The upcoming midterm elections give us an opportunity to explore what it means to be both a Christian and a citizen through the study of the ELCA social statement ***Faith and Civic Life: Seeking the Well-being of All***, with the help of our synod's Church in Society Committee. Together, we will create a space to think out loud about the intersection of our government and our faith in supportive, challenging, and uniquely Lutheran ways.

Community Announcements:

White Oak Senior Activities October 2026 Calendar-all activities are held at the White Oak Community Center at 1798 Lower Heckman Rd.

Mondays & Wednesdays- Yoga Class at 11 am

Tuesdays- Cardio Drumming at 1 pm & Gentle Exercise at 2:30 pm

Thursdays- Fit & Balance Class at 11:30 am

Thursday October 8th & 22nd- Coffee Hour at 9:30 am

Wednesday, October 7th only- Free Art Class instructed by Louetta at
12:30 pm

Wednesday, October 14th- Monthly Meeting at 1 pm with guest
speaker, Allegheny County DA's Office Senior
Justice Advocate, with the topic of seniors who are
targeted for scams.

**Lea's Floral Shop Flower Arrangement Classes at 6 pm- \$50 per class
unless otherwise stated.** Attend all the classes and get the Boozy Hot
Cocoa Class for free!

Monday October 12th- Premium Pumpkin Arrangement \$100

Wednesday October 28th-Halloween Jars

Wednesday Nov 11th- Fall Water Vase

Monday Nov 23rd- Cornucopia

Tuesday Dec 1st- Boxwood Tree

Monday Dec 7th- Christmas Vase

Wednesday December 9th- Snowman

Monday Dec 14th- Christmas Centerpiece

Wednesday Jan 6th-Boozy Hot Cocoa Class

**Saturday, November 7th, Peace Lutheran in Greenock will be having a
Fall Craft Show from 9 am to 2 pm.** Vendor applications will be
available in the narthex for anyone interested. Place the completed form
and check in the bin on Jessica's desk.

Prayer List September - December 2026

<u>Jean</u> Bickerstaff	<u>Rose</u> Gombas	<u>Tracy</u> Scott
<u>Jean</u> Bodenlos	<u>Becky</u> McCandless	<u>Sandy</u> Seitz
<u>Beth</u> Bucker	<u>Berty</u> McMillen	<u>Maxine</u> Smith
<u>Cindy</u> Caiarelli	<u>Georgina</u> McMarlin	<u>Robin</u> Van Dyke
<u>Jan</u> Cassol	<u>Mira</u> Merritt	<u>Patty</u> Warnick
<u>Lorenzo</u> Chick	<u>Karen</u> Nichols	<u>Linda</u> Weese
<u>Luca</u> Chick	<u>Maryann</u> Palyo	<u>Theresa</u> Zell
<u>Bill</u> Grimm	<u>MJ</u> Palyo	<u>Dennis</u>
	<u>Helen</u> Pula	<u>Justin</u>
		<u>Jeremiah</u>

***Please email flewhiteoak@gmail.com for any additions or removals from this list.**

Upcoming Commemorations

Marmaduke N. Carter, pastor, 1961 (TFF)

Wednesday, October 14, 2026

In 1916, Marmaduke Carter became the principal of the Christian Day School (formerly called the Rosebud School) and the first pastor of Christ Church, Rosebud, Alabama, a pioneering congregation in African American ministry among Lutherans in the South.

Teresa of Ávila, teacher, renewer of the church, died 1582

Thursday, October 15, 2026

A mystical writer and reformer of the monastic order (Carmelites) to which she belonged, Teresa may also be commemorated with John of the Cross on December 14. Latino Christians traditionally remember her on this date.

Ignatius, Bishop of Antioch, martyr, died around 115

Saturday, October 17, 2026

Ignatius was the second bishop of Antioch in Syria, the city where the name "Christians" originated. Ignatius is known to us from his letters, which encouraged Christians to live in love, yet stand firm in true doctrine.