



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

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

July 19, 2026

Deep-Seated Grace



The things we learn early on in life matter. Maybe the first time you rode a bike taught you about a deep sense of fulfillment. The first time your heart swooned with romance taught you about a whole new dimension of love. Painfully, we find out the stove is hot by that first, uninformed touch, and we learn to watch for the flame.

That first heartbreak sows some mistrust in future relationships.

These core memories inform how we see and interact with the world, shaping our expectations and actions. They are like seeds planted deep that grow and grow within. As Jesus speaks in this parable of weeds among the wheat, we are reminded that within us are both good seeds and invasive plants that get in the way. As our early memories remind us, people can sow both good and evil. There is fulfillment and romance, and there is pain and mistrust—good seeds and pesky weeds.

In a radical move, God the gardener has planted the deepest seed, a seed of grace. And herein lies the promise of this story from Jesus: Though we may try to uproot the sin—the weeds—separating us from God and each other, only God can make this grace come to life. With dusty overalls and a warm smile, God, the greatest gardener, removes the weeds of pain and mistrust. In Jesus, all that separates us from one another and from God is no more. The earliest seed planted deep within (even before we can remember) is the seed of grace that cultivates the deepest connection to God.

How have you seen God's grace at work in you, and how has the Spirit sown trust and connection in your life?

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2013 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License.

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Wendy S. Farone
Assisting Minister: Loran Bohman
Lector: Sandy Smith
Organist: Drew Pogyor
Altar Care: Loran Bohman
Altar Flowers: are given to the glory of God.
The Sanctuary Light: is given to the glory of God.
The Columbarium Light: is given to the glory of God by Loran Bohman in memory of his grandfather, George Nelson Sr.

Hymns

- Entrance Hymn** **ELW 399** **O Holy Spirit, Root of Life**
- Hymn of the day** **ELW 516** **Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast**
- Communion Hymns** **ELW 465** **As the Grains of Wheat**
 ELW 689 **Praise and Thanksgiving**
- Sending Hymn** **ELW 694** **Sing to the Lord of Harvest**

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.

July 12, 2026 Attendance: 35
Bible Study: 18

Offerings:	
Monthly Need:	\$11,095.00
June Offerings:	\$7630.00
Thrivent Dividends:	\$4350.73
Total:	\$11,980.73

Faith Announcements:

Back-to-school supplies are now entering stores, which means School kit time! We have 50 School kits to pack for Lutheran World Relief. These kits are sent all over the world, wherever they are needed. Each School kit must have the same items; we cannot deviate from the list. If you are unsure of what to buy, money can be donated, and I will shop for what we need. Needed items include:

70-count wide or college-ruled spiral-bound notebooks (each kit gets 4) 

24-count box of Crayola 

Unsharpened #2 pencils (each kit gets 5) 

Black or blue ballpoint pens (each kit gets 5) 

Blunt children's scissors 

30 cm ruler 

2 and 1/2 inch eraser

Pencil sharpener

Today, there will be Lay Assistant training after worship for anyone interested in assisting during worship services.

Travelogue by Request!

Join us on an adventure across the country to see waterfalls, giant redwood trees, waterways, mountains, and more. Our tour guides are Randy and Diane Marburger, who will share photos and stories from their recent travel experience. Mark your calendar for **Tuesday, July 21st, at noon in the Fellowship Hall**. Lunch will be provided! Contact Randy or Diane with any questions.

Sunday, July 26th, there will be Altar Guild training after worship for anyone interested in altar care.

Saturday, August 1st, White Oak Community Day will be held at Heritage Park and Pool from 11 am to 10 pm. Volunteers are needed from each local church to run the games in the children's area; anyone interested in volunteering, please get in touch with Jessica or Jo VanMeter at 412-678-5355 or jo@samsponsmills.org.

Randy and Diane Margburger invite you to an open house/garden on Tuesday, August 4th, from 3-7 pm at 3100 Main Street, Munhall.

Road Trip!

Are you interested in taking a short day trip to Akron, Ohio, to see two mansions: The Stan Hywet Mansion ([click here](#)) and the Hower House ([click here](#)), which include gorgeous gardens, a gift shop, and more. We intend to charter a small bus if there is enough interest. **Friday, September 11.** Please get in touch with the Marburgers or the office if you are interested.

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

Katharina & Martin Luther: The Radical Marriage of a Runaway Nun and a Renegade Monk by Michelle DeRusha is available on the new bookshelf in the back hallway for anyone interested in reading it.

Bible Study Updates!

On July 20th, we will continue Ephesians. All are welcome! Please don't hesitate to invite neighbors and friends!

Pastor's Podcast- New episode!

Understanding Church: The Human Way to Communicate as a Church <https://www.belc.org/podcast/> or wherever you listen to podcasts.

Council Meeting: August 20, 2026, at 12:30 pm.

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)

**Design for Belonging:
Summer Book Study
Thursdays, August 13, 20, & 27
7 PM on Zoom:**

We all want our churches to feel like spaces where everyone is welcomed and included, but just how do we do that? Join the Authentic Diversity & Justice Working Group as we read [*Design for Belonging*](#) and have conversations about how we can each live into our call to fully include our neighbors. We will meet over three Zoom sessions for this quick read with lots of pictures.

**Christian Associates Honors
Bishop Kusserow
Sunday, August 30: 3 PM
Shadyside Presbyterian Church
5121 Westminister Place
Pittsburgh, PA 15232**

John 17 Awards Afternoon Tea will recognize Bishop Emeritus Kurt Kusserow and Bishop Emeritus David Zubik (Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh) for outstanding achievement in Christian unity, judicatory leadership, and interfaith engagement. RSVP at CASP.ORG/TEA

Community Announcements:

VBS in the Park- July 27 through 31st from 9 am to 12 pm at the Blue Spruce and Tulip Tree Pavilions in White Oak Park. Please register here: <https://vbspark.org/sign-up-form/>. Pastor Wendy will be there on Tuesday, July 28th, and will be offering story hour.

Saturday, August 1st, Hard to Recycle Collection Event at McKeesport Area High School from 9 am to 1 pm. Registration required. Call 412-488-7490.

Friday, August 14th, from 11 am – 2 pm, White Oak Vet Center Picnic. Heritage Hill Park, 169 Victoria Drive, White Oak. All veterans, service members, & families welcome! RSVP by August 7th at 412-678-7704.

Monday, August 17th, from 12 pm – 3 pm, The Village for Kids at Renziehausen Park Bandshell and Ballfield. Please note: Adult supervision is recommended for all children ages 6 and younger. (Rain or Shine)

August 18-20 from 3-9 pm, McKeesport’s 66th International Village at Renziehausen Park Ballfields by the bandshell. Admission is \$2. Entertainment is from 6-9 pm. Dancing is from 5-9 pm.

Prayer List June - August 2026

<u>All Military & Families</u> <u>Nikki</u> Amhurst <u>Katie</u> Bachinger <u>Bill</u> Benninghoff <u>Becky</u> Ball <u>Beth</u> Brucker <u>Jean</u> Bickerstaff <u>Jean</u> Bodenlos <u>Dennis</u> <u>Cindy</u> Caiarelli <u>Don</u> Cain <u>Jan</u> Cassol <u>Barry</u> D <u>Brad</u> D <u>Mike</u> Doyle <u>Kara</u> Eaton <u>Rose</u> Gombas	<u>Bill</u> Grimm <u>Jerry</u> Groves <u>Eric</u> Harshman <u>Rhoda</u> Jones <u>Renee</u> K <u>Ken</u> K <u>Nancy</u> Kimling <u>Tom</u> Lauffenburger <u>Becky</u> McCandless <u>Berty</u> McMillen <u>Georgina</u> McMarlin <u>Marlene</u> Newman <u>Hanna</u> Pitchford <u>Lisa</u> Pitchford <u>Helen</u> Pula <u>Chris</u> Ragsdale	<u>Tracy</u> Scott <u>Sandy</u> Seitz <u>Maxine</u> Smith <u>Ronnie</u> Stewart <u>Casey</u> Stickel <u>Steven</u> T <u>Joanne</u> Tomco <u>Patty</u> Warnick <u>Linda</u> Weese <u>Theresa</u> Zell <u>Jim</u> Zink <u>Nick</u> <u>Doyle Family</u> <u>Moody Family</u> <u>Slobodnyak Family</u> <u>Trapletti Family</u>
---	--	--

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

Upcoming Commemorations

Mary Magdalene, Apostle

Wednesday, July 22, 2026

Sometimes called "the apostle to the apostles" because she told them of her encounter with the risen Lord, Mary was a woman of Galilee who followed Jesus throughout his ministry. She was present at Jesus' crucifixion and his burial.

Birgitta of Sweden, renewer of the church, died 1373

Thursday, July 23, 2026

Birgitta married at age thirteen and had four daughters. Widowed at age thirty-eight, she gave all that she owned to the poor, and founded a community of monks and nuns led by a woman. Her work is continued today by the Society of St. Birgitta.

James, Apostle

Saturday, July 25, 2026

James and his brother John were the sons of Zebedee, fishermen by trade before their call from Jesus. He was the first of the twelve apostles to be martyred, and his death is the only one recorded in scripture (Acts 12:1-2).