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Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

August 16, 2026

Breaking Boundaries



Jesus did not stay within the boundaries of his time, much to the frustration of authorities. He broke through not just geographic boundaries but religious, ethnic, and social boundaries as well.

Jesus intentionally broke geographic and ethnic boundaries in visiting the Canaanite communities of Tyre and Sidon. Canaanites and Jews had often been

in conflict, so it was not that surprising when the disciples attempted to prevent a Canaanite woman from seeing Jesus. She was breaking boundaries herself in asking that Jesus heal her child. Jesus' first response seems harsh, but as the woman persisted and acknowledged him as "Lord" (something the disciples had been slow to grasp), he healed her child.

In this encounter, Jesus demonstrated that God's love cannot be held back by boundaries created by humans based on who we are, where we are from, what we have done, our background, our position in society, and more. God's grace and restoration are available to all, with no exceptions.

And yet, history is filled with accounts of bias, discrimination, oppression, segregation, persecution, and genocide. Tragically, this continues today in a multitude of ways and a multitude of places.

As present-day disciples, we are called to follow Christ in breaking boundaries, challenging biases, and welcoming all to celebrate God's love at the font and the table. So, what boundaries do we need to break to work for peace and proclaim the good news? How are we and our congregations fighting bias, discrimination, oppression, and persecution wherever we can? How are we persistently asking Christ to heal and restore fractured communities and nations around the world?

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Pastor: Rev. Dr. Wendy S. Farone
Assisting Minister: Melanie Thomas
Lector: Katrina Syska
Organist: Drew Pogyor
Altar Care: Loran Bohman
Altar Flowers: are given to the glory of God by Rich Williard and Daisy Shields in honor of their anniversary.
The Sanctuary Light: is given to the glory of God.
The Columbarium Light: is given to the glory of God.

Hymns

Entrance Hymn **ELW 641 All Are Welcome**

Hymn of the day **ELW 612 Healer of Our Every Ill**

Communion Hymns **ELW 587 There’s Wideness in God’s Mercy**
 ELW 496 One Bread, One Body

Sending Hymn **ELW 759 My Faith Looks Up to Thee**

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.

August 9, 2026 Attendance: 40
Bible Study: 18

Offerings:	
Monthly Need:	\$11,095.00
July Offerings:	\$6965.00
<u>Thrivent Dividends:</u>	<u>\$2966.29</u>
Total:	\$9,931.29

Faith Announcements:

We need volunteers to help finish Spring cleaning the church, which must be completed by the end of August. Volunteers, please refer to the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the back hall for the remaining items on the list. See Pam for further instruction and details.

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!

Altar Guild training will be held after worship for anyone interested in attending.

Thank you to all who have donated to our school kits! We will be packing kits today after worship. We will need help with unpacking items, wrapping pens and pencils, stringing the bags, and packing bags.

Road Trip! New Date: Friday, September 18th, leaving at 7:45 am sharp

Are you interested in taking a short day trip to Akron, Ohio, to see two mansions: The Stan Hywet Mansion and the Hower House, which include gorgeous gardens, a gift shop, and more. We intend to charter a small bus if there is enough interest. **Friday, September 18, leaving at 7:45 am sharp.** There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex for those who are interested. The trip itinerary and pricing are now available on the bulletin board in the narthex. **Deadline for payment is Thursday, September 3rd. Please make the checks out to Faith Lutheran Church and place them in the bin on Jessica's desk.**

Flea Market on Saturday, September 26th from 9 am to 2 pm.

Drop-off will be Monday through Thursday, September 21-24, 10 am-2 pm and 6 pm-8 pm. There will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex to help sort and price, bake sale, work the day of the flea market, clean up, etc.

New Wooden Flower arrangement or cross-making class!

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 narthex for those interested.

NEW on the bookshelf complete with Pastor Wendy's notes!

And Look! We Live!: Being Church in Difficult Times by [Rev. Kurt F. Kusserow](#)

What does it mean to be Church when familiar structures are faltering and long-trusted measures of success no longer hold? Rather than offering strategies for survival or prescriptions for renewal, And Look! We Live! invites readers into an act of discovery. Drawing on the Church's most enduring images, this book listens closely for what these metaphors still have to teach us in a difficult time.

Bishop Kusserow does not deny the grief, anxiety, or uncertainty many feel about the Church's future. Instead, he asks a quieter, more hopeful question: what if these images were never meant to measure our strength, but to reveal our purpose? Written for those who love the Church and worry about her, And Look! We Live! offers neither nostalgia nor despair, but a steady assurance that even now—especially now—the Church is still being called, still being sent, still living.

Bible Study Updates!

On August 18th, we will continue to study the book of Ephesians.

Ambassador Committee Meeting: Thursday, September 10th, 2026, at 6:30 pm.

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

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.

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)

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:

**White Oak Senior Activities: held at White Oak Community Center-
1798 Lower Heckman Rd**

Every Monday and Wednesday at 11:00 am- Yoga Class

Wednesday, August 12th at 1:00 pm- Monthly Meeting- Guest Speaker:
Elizabeth Kocis from PSGA. Topic: Alzheimer's & Dementia

Thursday, August 13th & 27th at 9:30 am- Coffee Hour

**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 free.
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>Jeanne</u> Baird <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>Timothy</u> Matthews <u>Becky</u> McCandless <u>Berty</u> McMillen <u>Georgina</u> McMarlin <u>Marlene</u> Newman <u>Julie</u> Ortiz <u>Eric</u> Ortiz <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>Doug</u> Sivak <u>Greg</u> Sivak <u>Maxine</u> Smith <u>Ronnie</u> Stewart <u>Casey</u> Stickel <u>Steven</u> T <u>Joanne</u> Tomco <u>Erin</u> Tyler <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>
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*Please email flcwhiteoak@gmail.com for any additions or removals from this list.

Upcoming Commemorations

Bernard, Abbot of Clairvaux, died 1153

Thursday, August 20, 2026

Bernard, a Cistercian monk, was a man of great spirituality who wrote mystical works and criticized those whom he thought took an overly intellectual approach to the faith. He became an abbot and wrote several hymns that are still beloved today.