

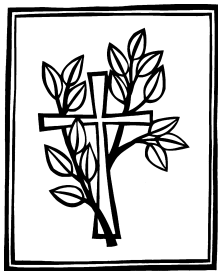


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Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 30, 2026

Take Up Your Cross



Jesus issues a difficult invitation to his disciples: “Take up [your] cross and follow me” (Matthew 16:24). While the disciples may have hoped for a Messiah who would set the world right through satisfying displays of force and strength, Jesus offers them a different vision. His new kingdom or reign will not be built on traditional concepts of power and glory. It is instead a kingdom centered on the cross.

Today we, too, may long for a mighty Messiah to put the world back in order, throw down corrupt rulers from their thrones, and take away suffering once and for all. And like Peter, we may find ourselves crying out in disbelief, “God forbid it, Lord!” (v. 22) when Jesus redirects our gaze to the cross.

The cross reminds us that following Jesus requires nothing less than our whole lives. To follow Jesus is to love our neighbors with a self-sacrificing love, to sit in the discomfort of another’s struggle, and to be willing to lay down our own power and privilege to see the world from our neighbor’s point of view. Following Jesus requires practicing courage as we show up for one another in the least glamorous moments of life: in the hospital room, at the gravesite, in the living rooms of the brokenhearted, in the streets marching for justice. To follow Jesus is to open our hearts to the world’s pain and to practice loving others with God’s generous love, trusting that there is always more than enough.

Putting love of God and neighbor above power, prestige, and comfort is countercultural. It might even get us into trouble. But through Jesus’ own life, death, and resurrection, we are freed to enter into the world’s suffering, trusting that God’s love always gets the last word and that we will indeed be brought to new life through God’s resurrection power.

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Pastor: Rev. Dr. Wendy S. Farone
Assisting Minister: Loran Bohman
Lector: Genevieve Price
Organist: Drew Pogyor
Altar Care: Loran Bohman
Altar Flowers: are given to the glory of God by Chuck and Vicki Schaller in memory of Helen E Schaller’s birthday.
The Sanctuary Light: is given to the glory of God.
The Columbarium Light: is given to the glory of God.

Hymns

- Entrance Hymn** **ELW 655 Son of God, Eternal Savior**
- Hymn of the day** **ELW 798 Will You Come and Follow Me**
- Communion Hymns** **ELW 659 Will You Let Me Be Your Servant**
 ELW 548 Rise, O Church, like Christ Arisen
- Sending Hymn** **ELW 660 Lift 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 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 23, 2026 Attendance: 35
Bible Study: 22

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

Faith Announcements:

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.

God's Work Our Hands Coffee Hour, Sunday, September 13th after worship. A chair from each committee will do a temple talk, and there will be fun activities along with fellowship too!

Sunday, September 13th, we will be blessing our Faith Quilts and School kits during worship. They will later be boxed and will need to be taken to the ingathering site at St. Paul's Lutheran in Zelienople.

Road Trip! Friday, September 18th, leaving at 7:45 am sharp
Update: There is only one spot remaining! There are dinner selection sheets in the narthex. Please fill out your name and pick which meal you'd like. Please drop your sheets into the bin on Jessica's desk or return them to Randy asap. 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. **The payment deadline 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 is a sign-up sheet in the narthex to help with sorting and pricing, the bake sale, working 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 back hallway 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 September 1st, we will continue to study the book of Ephesians, Chapter .

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

Council Meeting: September 17, 2026, at 12:30 pm.

Pastor's Podcast- New episode!

Understanding Church: What is the Kingdom of God?

<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 worshipping 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)

Authentic Diversity & Justice Newsletter

The August newsletter from our synod's Authentic Diversity & Justice Working Group is now online.

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:

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 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>Karen</u> Nichols <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

Nikolai Frederik Severin Grundtvig, bishop, renewer of the church, died 1872

Wednesday, September 2, 2026

Grundtvig was, with Søren Kierkegaard, one of the two great Danish theologians of the nineteenth century. As a pastor, he battled the prevalent idea that Christianity was more a philosophy than divine revelation. He wrote over a thousand hymns.