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Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

October 18, 2026

Undivided Loyalty



When Jesus holds up a coin in the marketplace and asks the Pharisees and Herodians, “Whose head is this and whose title?” (Matthew 22:20), he is asking a question not about money, taxes, or the Roman Empire—at least not directly. It is likely that the emperor’s title, printed on that coin, proclaimed the emperor’s divinity: an implicit question of loyalty. And when Jesus asks his

hearers to give “to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s and to God the things that are God’s” (v. 21), he invites his hearers to decide where they will place their loyalty. What will they give to God? What belongs to the emperor?

We might ask ourselves the same question: Where do we place our loyalty? Where do we place our trust? In Jesus, we see an example: Jesus is loyal to us. Jesus is loyal to us when he teaches. Jesus is loyal to us when he bends down to wash his disciples’ feet. Jesus is loyal to us when he goes to the cross, dies, and rises again for us and for our salvation. Jesus is always loyal to us. Jesus is generous with us in pouring out grace upon grace for us. And we respond to Jesus’ loyalty and generosity with loyalty and generosity of our own.

Throughout our lives, we are empowered by the loyalty and generosity of Jesus to give to God the things that are God’s. We offer our resources for the good of our neighbors. We offer our time, investing in the work of the gospel in our communities and beyond. And we offer our very selves, pledging our undivided loyalty to Jesus, who is loyal to us first.

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Pastor: Rev. Dr. Wendy S. Farone
Assisting Minister: Chuck Schaller
Lector: Kathy Morgan
Communion Helper: Judy Haliko
Organist: Drew Pogyor
Altar Care: Loran Bohman
The Sanctuary Light: is given to the glory of God.
The Columbarium Light: is given to the glory of God.

- Entrance Hymn** **ELW 757 All My Hope on God Is Founded**
- Hymn of the day** **ELW 841 Lift Every Voice and Sing**
- Communion Hymns** **ELW 583 Take My Life, That I May Be**
 ELW 690 We Raise Our Hands to You, O Lord
- Sending Hymn** **ELW 580 How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord**

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 11, 2026 Attendance: 33

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:

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. **The last day to donate is October 25th.** Thank you for helping us share a little sweetness and make Halloween special for the children in our community! **Candy will be handed out on Saturday, October 31st from 6-8 pm.**

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! 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. A sign-up sheet and pictures of the crafts are in the narthex for those interested. **Update: Please have payments in by October 18th. Make all checks payable to Faith Lutheran Church.**

Bruce Campbell will be here on Wednesday, November 17th, 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.

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.

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!

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 12th, 2026, at 6:30 pm.

Council Meeting: November 19th, 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

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!

- 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 flewwhiteoak@gmail.com for any additions or removals from this list.

Upcoming Commemorations

Luke, Evangelist

Sunday, October 18, 2026

Identified as the author of both Luke and Acts, Luke was careful to place the events of Jesus' life in their social and religious contexts. His gospel gives us some of the most beloved parables, as well as the songs of Zechariah, Mary, the angels, and Simeon.

James of Jerusalem, martyr, died around 62

Friday, October 23, 2026

One of three early-church leaders named James, this man is identified in the New Testament and by a historian of the time as a brother of Jesus. Scholars are uncertain whether this means a blood brother. He was a leader of the church in Jerusalem.