



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

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 6, 2026

Community is Complicated



Navigating life with other humans is not always easy. We who call ourselves the church likely know this all too well. Perhaps you've witnessed church council meetings gone awry, frustrating conversations about the budget, or intense disagreements over worship styles. Maybe your faith community has had to navigate conflicting visions for mission and outreach, welcome and hospitality, or diversity and justice. Maybe the generational or political divides in your community feel like rifts too big to cross. As the church, we are called to wrestle with difficult questions about faith and life, but

at times, even with the best of intentions, we leave one another feeling hurt, overlooked, or misunderstood.

Jesus knew a thing or two about life in community. He knew what it was like to be betrayed by the ones he loved. He shared meals with people of different backgrounds, people whose identities at times put them at odds with one another. Even his disciples never quite seemed to be on the same page! Yet Jesus knew that despite the complexity of these situations, faith is best practiced in community. Accompanying one another, sharing one another's burdens, encouraging one another, forgiving one another, and holding each other accountable are vital to the Christian life.

Therefore, managing conflict is not something to be taken lightly. Disagreements are not to be just swept under the rug, ignored until the next issue emerges. We are instead called to embrace truth-telling, courage, accountability, and compassion in our dealings with one another. The work of conflict resolution is not easy or glamorous. In fact, it can be awkward and downright painful. But it is holy work. And by God's grace, it can be an invitation to build a community that more truly reflects God's love poured out for the whole world.

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Wendy S. Farone
Assisting Minister: Melanie Thomas
Lector: Sandy Smith
Organist: Drew Pogyor
Altar Care: Loran Bohman
Altar Flowers: are given to the glory of God by Ed and Joyce Thomas in honor of their 48th wedding anniversary.
The Sanctuary Light: is given to the glory of God.
The Columbarium Light: is given to the glory of God by Loran Bohman in honor of his parents, Wenzel and Marilyn Bohman, for his father’s 96th birthday and their 73rd wedding anniversary.

Hymns

- Entrance Hymn** **ELW 522 As We Gather at Your Table**
- Hymn of the day** **ELW 603 God, When Human Bonds
Are Broken**
- Communion Hymns** **ELW 470 Draw Us in the Spirit’s Tether**
ELW 716 Lord of All Nations, Grant Me Grace
- Sending Hymn** **ELW 836 Joyful, Joyful We Adore 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 30, 2026 Attendance: 40
Bible Study: 19

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

Faith Announcements:

Brief Order of Healing

Join us for a sacred time of prayer, reflection, and healing. Through Scripture, prayer, anointing, and the laying on of hands, we invite God's healing presence into our lives—body, mind, and spirit. All are welcome to come as they are and receive the grace and peace of God.

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!

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

There are dinner selection sheets in the narthex for those going to Akron. 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. 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, cleanup, 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.

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.

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 8, we will continue our study of the book of Ephesians as we explore Chapter 6. Join us as we reflect on Paul's words and consider how they speak to our faith and daily walk with Christ. All are welcome!

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)

Creation Care Newsletter

Our synod's Creation Care Team has launched a new monthly newsletter.

Authentic Diversity & Justice Newsletter

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

Faith & Civic Life Study Group

Thursdays, September 17-October 22

7 PM on Zoom

Skills to Serve: Drywall & Trim

Saturday, September 19: 9:30 AM- 11:30 AM

First Evangelical Lutheran Church

(246 South Main Street, Greensburg, PA, 15601)

Have you ever considered signing up for a mission work trip but didn't feel you had the qualifications? Our synod's Lutheran Disaster Response team is hosting the first of three skill training sessions, starting with drywall and trim. Useful tips, tutorial videos, and an opportunity to practice will help you learn new skills and build confidence for participating in disaster response. No registration is required. Questions can be directed to Synod Vice President Barb Nugent at barbara.nugent@swpasynod.org.

Community Announcements:

White Oak Senior Activities

Free Exercise Class - Tuesdays starting September 8th at 2:30 pm-begins 8 weeks of class

Free Art Class - Thursday, September 10th at 12:30 pm.
Instructor: Louetta

Yoga Class - Mondays & Wednesdays all month at 11:00 am.

Events/Trips - Pittsburgh Belairs Perform on 9/16 at 1:00 pm.
5 tickets are available.

Friday, September 4th-Monday, September 7th, the McKeesport Rib Fest will be held at the bandshell in Renzie Park. Friday from 5-9 pm.
Saturday-Monday from noon to 9 pm.

White Oak Animal Safe Haven is having their Fido Food Truck Event on Saturday, September 12th at White Oak #1 Volunteer Fire Department, located at 1130 California Avenue, White Oak, from 2 pm to 6 pm. There will be food trucks, crafters, and vendors in the parking lot and in the fire hall. There will be tickets to purchase for over 100 chance auction baskets. There will also be cats and dogs from the shelter that are able to be adopted. This is WOASH's biggest fundraiser of the year.

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

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

Upcoming Commemorations

Peter Claver, priest, missionary to Colombia, died 1654

Wednesday, September 9, 2026

Born into Spanish nobility, Claver became a Jesuit missionary and served in present-day Colombia. His ministry was focused on the enslaved people who arrived there. He gave them food and medicine, learned their dialects, and taught them Christianity.