

FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

246 South Main Street
Greensburg, Pennsylvania
724-834-1457

Office hours: Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

felchurch.org

 Find us on
Facebook www.facebook.com/felchurch

 @FELchurch

Pastor Larry Kemp
Marvin J. Huls

Interim Pastor
Director of Music

WELCOME TO FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH!

We gather here every Sunday to experience the life changing and life giving grace of God. In this place we discover the truth of which the Bible speaks, “So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!” (2 Cor. 5:17).

We are thankful for your presence among us, thankful to God for His abiding presence that goes with you this week, and hopeful that you will be among us when we gather again.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

IN THE TIME BEFORE WORSHIP TODAY, please spend a few moments reading the introduction to the scripture readings in preparation for the hearing of God's word.

ALL BAPTIZED worshipers who confess the presence of Christ in the bread and wine of communion are invited to commune. Children are invited to come forward for a blessing. Communicants please complete a communion card.

GLUTEN FREE COMMUNION WAFERS are available for those persons with allergies.

WE ARE THANKFUL FOR CHILDREN in our worship service. A nursery, on the second floor of the education building, is available for those moments when children need a quiet area.

CHILDREN'S BULLETINS providing activities based on today's scripture readings are available in the narthex.

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY BAGS are available for children to use during worship. They are located in the Narthex and at the top of the steps in the balcony. Each bag has an age level marked on it so that you can easily find the one you need. After the service, we ask that all contents be placed in the proper bag and returned. Thank you!

PASTOR LARRY KEMP may be reached either at the church office, by email at *pastor125kemp2@verizon.net* or by calling his mobile number at (412) 302-6988. If the concern is of an urgent nature, please call his mobile number.

PLEASE turn off your cell phones before worship.

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

November 19, 2017

8:15 AM & 10:45 AM

THE WORSHIP SERVICE

The beginning of the organ prelude is a call to silent, personal preparation for the worship of God.

GATHERING

Preludes and Silent Prayer

Confession and Forgiveness

The congregation stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The congregation kneels. Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God, we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Hymn “O God of Every Nation”

713

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

Hymn of Praise: "Glory to God"



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



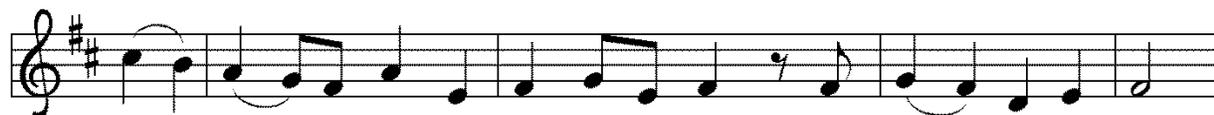
Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we



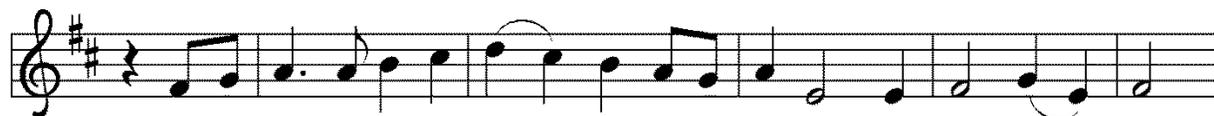
wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.



For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.

Prayer of the Day (printed on Celebrate insert)

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray... **Amen.**

The congregation may be seated.

WORD

First Reading Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18 (Celebrate insert)

Psalm 90:1-12 (Celebrate insert)
(Read responsively, 8:15; sung, choir and congregation, 10:45)

Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 (Celebrate insert)
R/Thanks be to God!

Gospel Acclamation



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel Matthew 25:14-30 (Celebrate insert)
R/ Glory to you, O Lord. R/ Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn "When Our Song Says Peace"

709

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM/RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS (8:15 AM)

Let us pray. Merciful God, we thank you for this sister, whom you have made your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called her to yourself, enlightened her with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished her in the community of faith. Uphold your servant in the gifts and promises of baptism, and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Christ.
Amen.

Profession of Faith

The presiding minister addresses those making public affirmation of baptism. The assembly may stand and join in the responses.

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

Response: I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

Response: I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

Response: I renounce them.

The presiding minister addresses the candidates and the assembly.

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

**was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:
to live among God's faithful people,
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

The assembly makes affirmation:

I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

The minister addresses the assembly.

People of God, do you promise to support and pray for one another in your life in Christ?

We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

The presiding minister prays for God's blessing.

Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life. Stir up in your people the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. **Amen.**

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of the Church (Celebrate insert)

To stay current with our continuing prayer needs, we refresh our prayer list at the beginning of each month. We understand that many people will continue to need prayer beyond the length of one month. If you wish to continue to have someone listed in the bulletin for public prayer, please call the office by the last Wednesday of the month.

The Peace

THE MEAL

Offering

(Children, please bring your offering to the front of the church and place it in the “Thank You Jesus” Jar.)

Offertory Response “Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful” # 182

Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing. Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gather the hopes and the dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer now. Grace our table with your presence, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

Offertory Prayer (in unison)

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things.

Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks...we praise your name and join their unending

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Eucharistic Prayer

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God....

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command,...

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,

be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

COMMUNION

Post-Communion Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

O God, we give you thanks
that you have set before us this feast,
the body and blood of your Son.

By your Spirit strengthen us to serve all in need
and to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

Blessing

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Hymn “Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty”

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Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

BLESSED TO BLESS

SERVING TODAY:

ACOLYTES are Ailanthus Hanzel, Erik Hanzel, Alyssa Tomb, Haley Tomb

LECTORS are Kim Nicassio and Beth Giglio

WORSHIP ASSISTANT is Dianna Marusko

AUDIO/VISUAL (AV) MINISTRY is provided by Dwight Miller, Lexi Hahn and Scott Hahn. CD's will be delivered by Helen Marie Flinner.

GREETERS include at 8:15 Dianna Marusko - north door, Pastor Kemp - center, - south door; at 10:45 Dianna Marusko - north door, Pastor Kemp - center, Dan Lucas - south door.

TODAY'S ANTHEM: "We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight"
Music by Michael Costello, Text by Henry Alford (1810-1871)

1. We walk by faith and not by sight, with gracious words draw near.
O Christ, who spoke as none e'er spoke, "My peace be with you here."
2. We may not touch Your hands and side, nor follow where You trod;
But in your promise we rejoice, and cry, "My Lord and God!"
3. Help then, O Lord, our unbelief, and may our faith abound
to call on You when You are near, and seek where You are found.
4. That, when our life of faith is done, in realms of clearer light.
We may behold You as You are, with full and endless sight.

PRAYER CONCERNS

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER Lisa, Brandie Saraceni, Robert Errett, Cheryl, Tanner, Sue, Dave, Laura, Jaye, Kris Hockensmith, Elaine, Dee, Jane Ament, Ivan Kunkle, Melissa Gasten, Margaret Podolinski, Rebecca Brunetta and family.

OUR CONDOLENCES are offered to Rebecca Brunetta and family on the loss of Rebecca's sister, Roberta Dwyer, who passed away last Saturday.

THE ALTAR FLOWERS are given in memory of Charles Stephenson and Elizabeth J. Stephenson by Nancy O'Hare.

THE CHANCEL FLOWERS are given in memory of mother, Glenna Moyer by Mr. and Mrs. Jerry L. Moyer.

PRAYER REQUESTS for First's Prayer Chain may be made at any time by calling the church office or by writing the request on the prayer cards in the pew racks and placing it in the offering plate. **If for whatever reason you do not want your name listed but would like to be on the prayer list, just let us know when you make your request.**

EXCELA HEALTH has changed their policy and will no longer notify the church of admissions. Please notify the pastor or call the church office if you or your loved one is hospitalized.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

BRIEF CONGREGATIONAL MEETING will precede the worship service today for the purpose of electing congregation council members.

THIS MORNING we welcome Josie Sleasman into membership at First at our 8:15 am worship service. Josie is transferring from Trinity Lutheran Church in Latrobe. Please take a moment to introduce yourself and personally welcome her into our fellowship.

CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST is available today and each Sunday, 9 - 10:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall.

BLANKETS FOR VETS today after service in the fellowship hall. Donation of materials are needed to make lap blankets for our veterans. Also, donations of lap blankets are being accepted. Please contact Dianna and/or Rocco Marusko, if you have any questions.

FINANCE meets Tuesday, 6:30 PM.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION meets Tuesday, 7:00 PM.

CHURCH OFFICE closed Thursday and Friday.

SOCIAL MINISTRY ACTIVATION TEAM meets next Sunday at 9:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall.

THE JAVA TABLE will be open next Sunday between worship services. Fair trade coffees, teas, and chocolates will be available for purchase.

ALTAR GUILD is in dire need of LARGE juice cans. You may drop them off in the office.

HOMEBOUND VISITS: Pastor Larry Kemp and those visiting homebound members are revising the current list of homebound members. If you know of anyone who might need a visit, please contact pastor or the church office.

FREE PIANO if you pick up. Contact the church office.

DON'T PITCH, RECYCLE.....You will find waste receptacles at the church doors so that you can recycle your bulletins. Of course you are encouraged to take the announcements and lessons home with you.

THE PARKING GARAGE will now be locked during the week, but still accessible with a key card. See office secretaries if you need a key card.

WELCA REFORMATION CHALLENGE: 15 items have been collected to date for emergency food cupboard. Our goal is 500! We are asking for canned foods to be donated. The collection bins are in the Narthex and entrance to the educational building. PLEASE check expiration dates since we cannot give out food which is beyond the expiration date.

NOVEMBER is American Indian Heritage month. First Lutheran Preschool would like to invite the congregation to attend a cultural event featuring Walks Not Alone Tuesday, November 28 at 10:00 AM. Walks Not Alone visits each year to share her family drum, songs, stories and her “petting zoo” (furs, pipes, etc.). Our preschoolers and their families also donate money to St. Joseph’s Indian School to help provide Christmas for Native American children. If you would like to donate, please turn your donation into the office in an envelope marked St. Josephs’s Indian School.



First Lutheran will again participate in Operation Reindeer. Your gifts should be new, unboxed and unwrapped. Please bring them to the church office by Sunday, December 4. Thank you!



**OPERATION REINDEER GIFT SUGGESTIONS
FOR TORRANCE RESIDENTS**



We do our best to match gifts to recipients for everything donated. Thank you for your help!

Clothing (Men's size XL or larger / Women's size L or larger):

No scarves or belts!

*sweatshirts & sweatpants *tops, t-shirts *pants and jeans *sweaters *socks *undergarments
*pajamas *bathrobes *mittens gloves *hats, ear muffs *jackets, coats, outerwear

Toiletries: No razors / Non-aerosol items please

*shampoo & conditioner *soap/body washes *hand/body lotion *shaving gel/creams
*combs/brushes *pony tail holders *small packs of tissues *toothpaste/toothbrushes

Cosmetics: No nail polish or glass bottles or mirrors

lipstick, gloss, powder, eye shadows, mascara, lip balm, blush

Activity Items: No needles or wire bindings

*craft kits *puzzle books *activity books *regular and large print books
*Bibles *games *CD's/DVD's *hand held games *crayons/paints

Food items: No nuts or glass containers

*diabetic or sugarless items *decaffeinated drink mixes/coffee
*individually packed snack items (crackers, cookies, cakes, gum, candy)

Miscellaneous:

*batteries (especially AA) *wallets *portable CD players *watches *sports
* memorabilia (especially Pittsburgh teams) *writing paper, stationary items especially with stamps
*phone cards are in great demand for the patients

Operation Reindeer is Mental Health of America's annual drive to provide Christmas gifts for Westmoreland County residents at Torrance State Hospital, a long term facility for psychiatric patients. These items make being away from family at Christmastime easier for patients who struggle with mental illnesses.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, December 24

10:00 AM service only (Fourth Sunday of Advent)

7:00 PM Family Service with Communion

10:00 PM Candlelight Communion Service

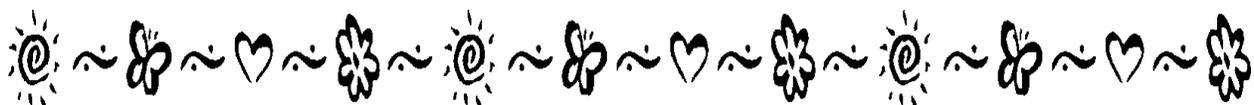


SUNDAY, December 31

10:00 AM service only

No Sunday Church School on Christmas Eve Day or New Year's Eve Day.

Regular services at 8:15 and 10:45 AM resume on Sunday, January 7



MATCHING GIFT PROGRAM 2017

First Lutheran has sponsored a Matching Gifts program since 2002. Members of First Lutheran are invited to make a gift to any non-profit, human service organization whose mission is in accordance with First Lutheran's mission, as agreed upon by our Social Ministry Team. Such gifts will be matched by a First Lutheran check and will be sent to the organization. Also, such gifts can be made throughout the year until the total budgeted amount of \$10,000 is met.

Individual organizations are only eligible to receive up to \$2,000 from the matching gifts program until November 12, 2017. If there are any matching funds money remaining after November 12, any size gift will be matched until the program budget is exhausted. The \$10,000 in matching funds is budgeted from our 2017 Trust Fund distribution.

ALTAR FLOWERS: First is in need of altar flowers for the following dates. If you are able to provide altar flowers for any of these dates, complete the form provided and return it with your flower fund contribution (make checks payable to First Lutheran) as soon as possible. Also, note on your check or envelope “flower fund”. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

December 31, 2017

January 7, 21, 28, 2018

March 4, 25, 2018

April 8, 2018

May 6, 20, 2018

June 3, 17, 2018

July 1, 2018

August 19, 26, 2018

September 30, 2018

October 7, 28, 2018

November 4, 2018

December 30, 2018

Enclosed is \$40.00 for altar flowers to be given on

(date)_____

in memory of_____

by_____

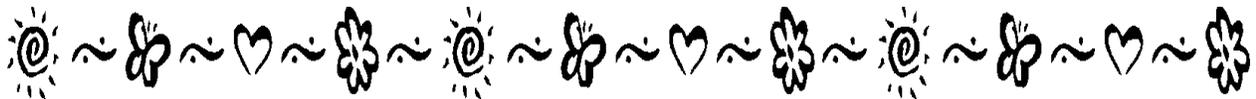
MISSION STATEMENT

“As Servants of Jesus Christ, we strive to impact our families, neighbors and the world by sharing our faith, empowered by God’s Grace”

*Developed by Church Council
October 2016*



We **urgently** need help recording the weekly service and editing the recording to CD. Training will be provided. Please call the church at 724-834-1457 or email the church office at office@felchurch.org if you would like to volunteer. This is a vital ministry for those unable to attend services and your help would be greatly appreciated.



HELP US PROMOTE OUR PRESCHOOL!

Please, if you have a Facebook account, go to “First Lutheran Preschool” and “like us” on Facebook. The more “likes” we have, the more ability we have to share our preschool mission:

“To provide an affordable, high quality, educational program while promoting the Christian faith and a love of learning.”

Thank you for your support!
Miss Barb and Miss Cindy