



# 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](http://www.facebook.com/felchurch)

 @FELchurch

Jerry Nuernberger  
Marvin J. Huls

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** remember to turn your cell phones off before worship.

# FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 3, 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

Prelude and Silent Prayer

Advent Hymn “Drawn to the Light” # 593

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Advent Hymn “Drawn to the Light” (sing refrain) # 593

### 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.**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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.**

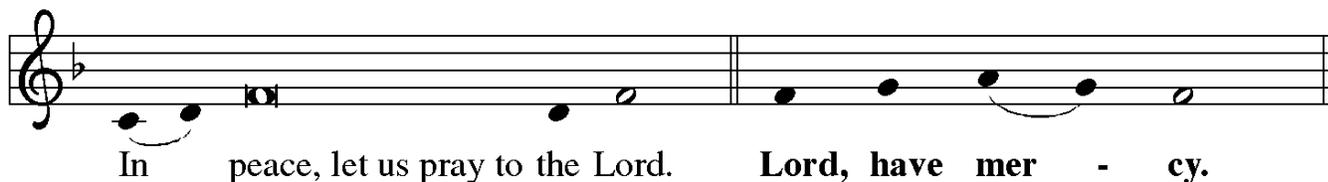
Hymn “Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding!”

# 246

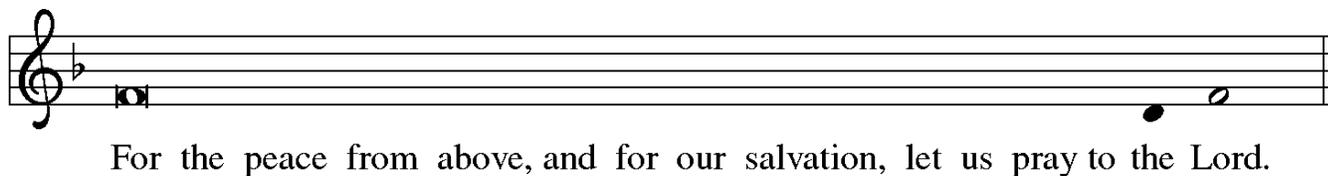
Greeting

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.**

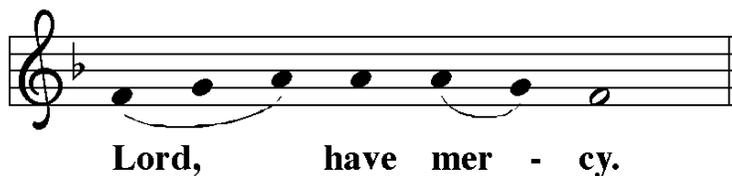
# Kyrie



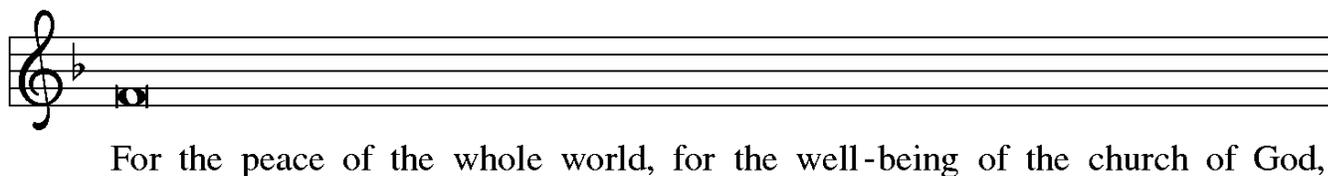
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



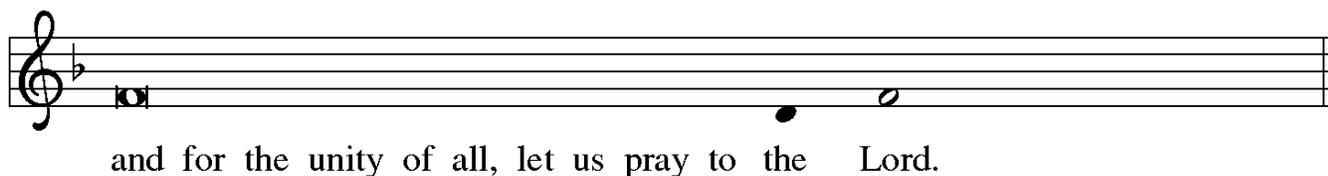
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



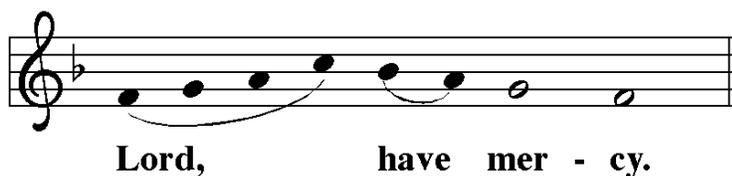
**Lord, have mer - cy.**



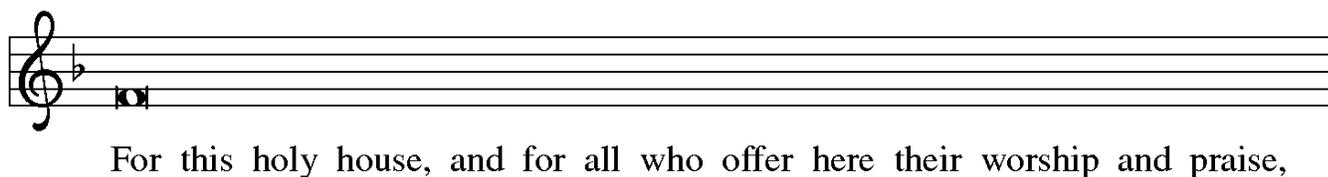
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



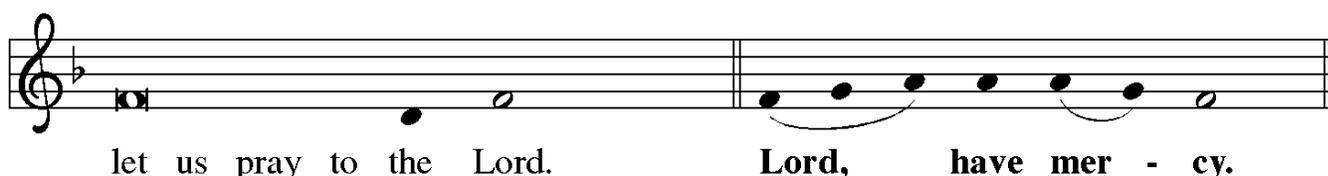
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



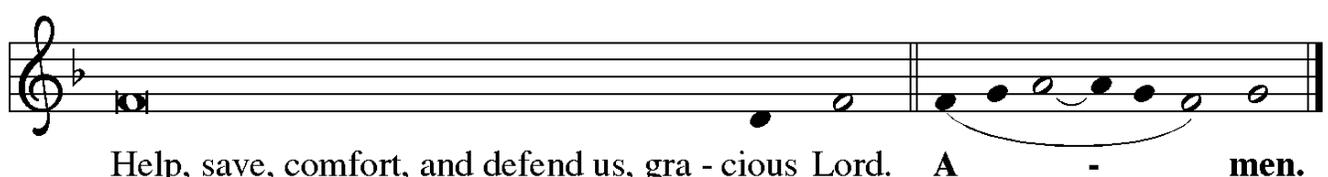
**Lord, have mer - cy.**



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **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      Isaiah 64:1-9      (Celebrate insert)

**R/Thanks be to God!**

Psalm 80: 1-7, 17-19      (Celebrate insert)

*(Read responsively, 8:15; sung, choir and congregation, 10:45)*

Second Reading      1 Corinthians 1:3-9      (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. Al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel      Mark 13:24-37      (Celebrate insert)

**R/ Glory to you, O Lord. R/ Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children's Message

Sermon

Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation**

**he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,\*  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## Prayers of the Church

*To stay current with our many continuing prayer needs, we will refresh our prayer list at the beginning of each new month by starting with a clean slate. 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

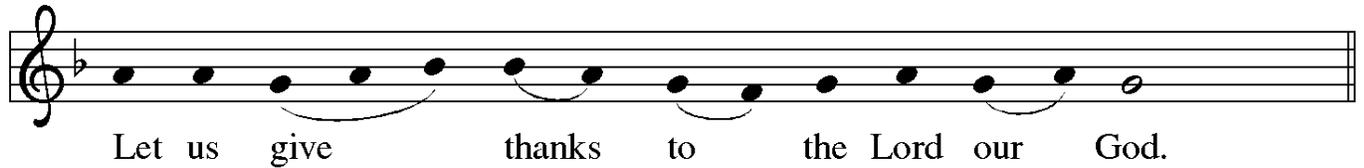
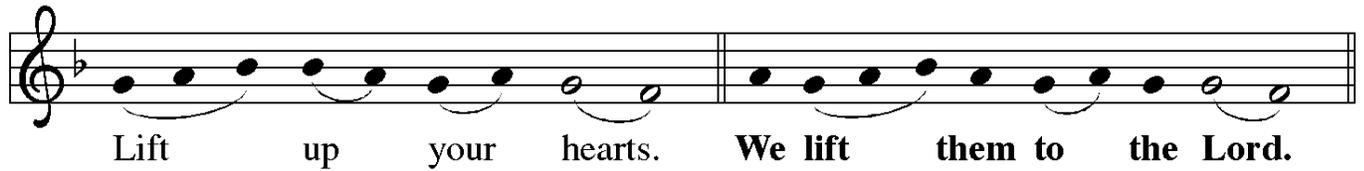
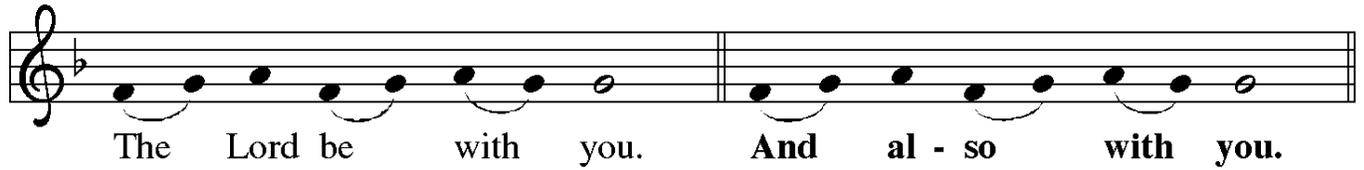
**Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing. Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gather the hopes and the dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer now. Grace our table with your presence, and give us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

Offertory Prayer (in unison)

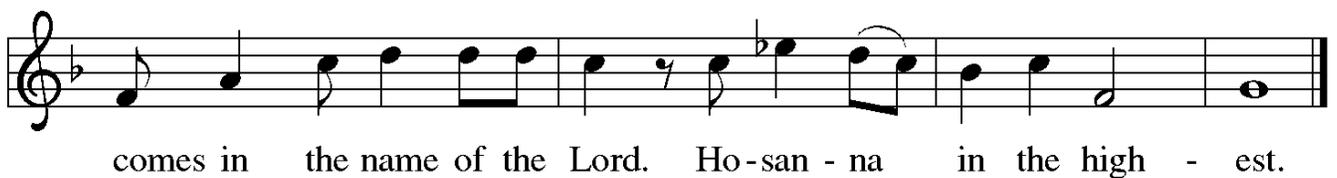
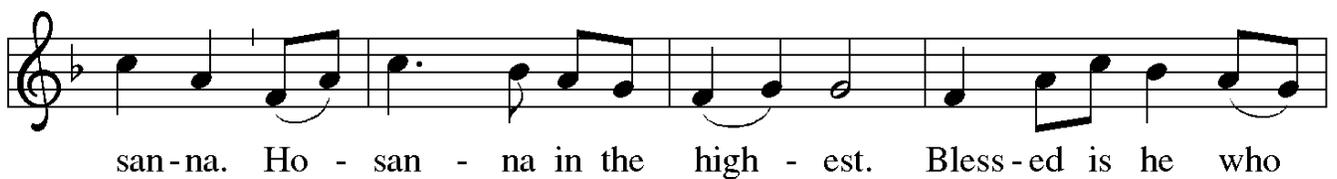
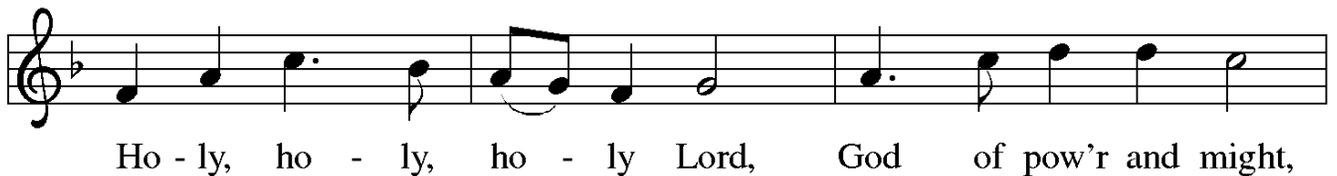
**Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things.**

**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



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 hymn:



## **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation...

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

With this bread and cup...

We look with hope for his coming.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit...

Bring the gift of peace on earth.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours...

one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

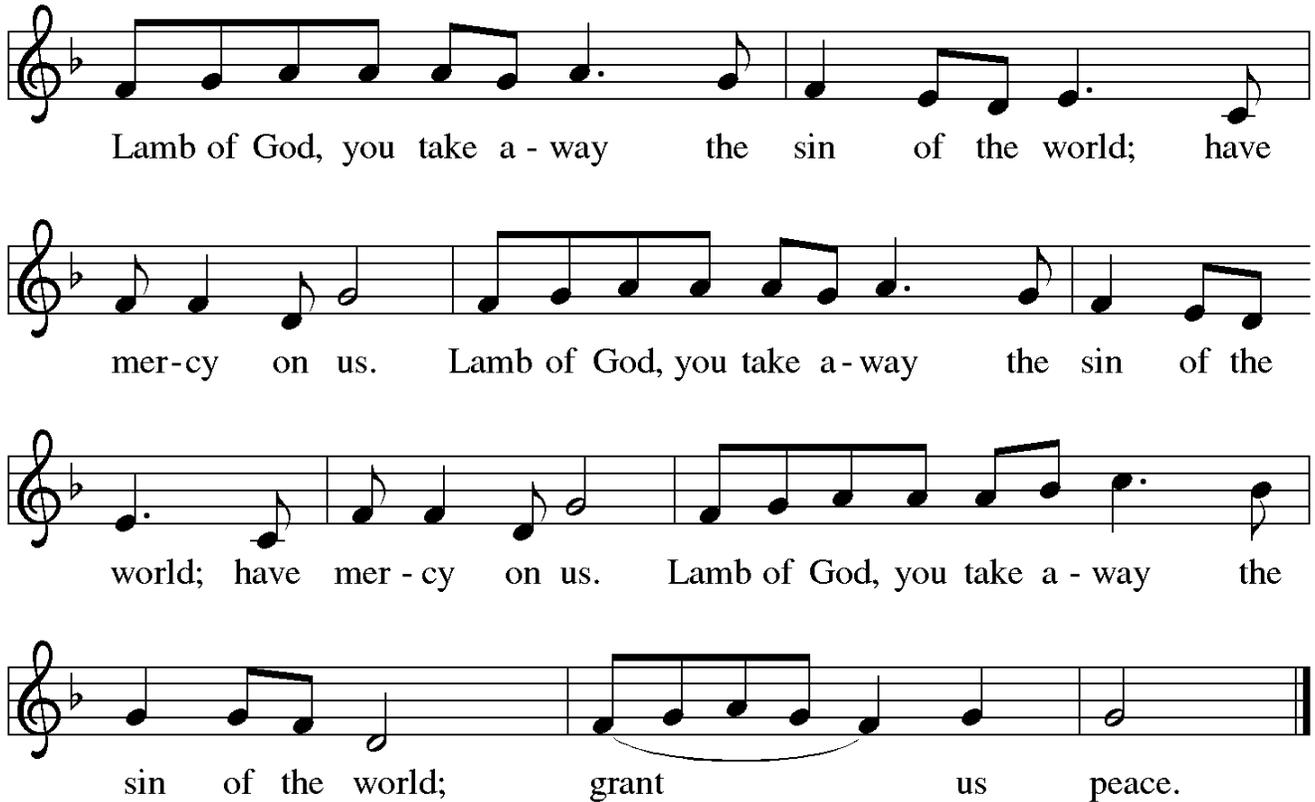
Lord's Prayer

Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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**

## Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

## Table Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in eternal life. **Amen.**

## Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, almighty God,  
that you have refreshed us  
through the healing power of this gift of life.  
In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift,  
in faith toward you  
and in fervent love toward one another;  
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

# SENDING

## Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

**Amen.**

Hymn “Hark, the Glad Sound!”

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## Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## 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*

# BLESSED TO BLESS

## SERVING TODAY:

**ACOLTYES** are Reese Woodley and Cade Cavanaugh.

**LECTORS** are David von Schlichten and Teresa Graziotto.

**WORSHIP ASSISTANT** is Pat Yost.

**AUDIO/VISUAL (AV) MINISTRY** is provided by Dennis Acita and Al Danilko. CD's will be delivered by Cheryl Lucas.

**GREETERS** include at 8:15 Pat Yost - north door, Pastor Kemp - center, - south door; at 10:45 Pat Yost - north door, Pastor Kemp - center, Shirley Thomas - south door.

## SERVING IN DECEMBER:

**ALTAR GUILD** for December includes Dianna Marusko - coordinator, Gwen Irwin, Suzy Flory and Cindy Black.

**USHERS** for December include at 8:15 Kip Boggs - chief, Sue Boggs, and Noah Boggs; at 10:45 Barry Attenberger - chief, Bev Attenberger, Al Leppold and Al Danilko.

## **PRAYER CONCERNS:**

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER** this week Lisa, Brandie Saraceni, Robert Errett, Cheryl, Jane Ament, John Merrill and Christopher.

**PLEASE KEEP** Josh Parsons, serving in Germany and Sean Rounds, serving in the Navy in your prayers.

To keep current with those who are in the service, we will refresh our list at the beginning of each new year by starting with a clean slate. Please call the church office before December 27 to have someone listed in the service prayers in 2017.

**THE ALTAR FLOWERS** are given in memory of Evelyn M. Watts by her family.

**THE CHANCEL FLOWERS** are given in memory of Katherine E. Newman by Kathryn Taylor and in memory of Kip D. Boggs on the anniversary of his baptism by his family.

**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:**

**THE ADVENT CANDLE** is lit today by the Kip Boggs family (8:15) and the Lucas family (10:45).

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

**TODAY CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS FOR SHUT-INS:** Sunday school Students will be filling stockings for our Shut-ins with the help of Thrivent Financial who will donate \$250.00 toward supplies and “Live Generously” T-shirts for each of our students to wear during their service project.

**“THE STAR”** movie is today at AMC Westmoreland 15 at 1:30 PM with lunch served in the Fellowship Hall following the 10:45 service for those who have purchased tickets.

**FOOD FROM THE HEART,** our weekday luncheon ministry, continues this Wednesday at noon.

**CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL** meets Wednesday, 7:00 PM.

**CHOIRS** rehearse Thursday night. Bell Choir meets at 6:15; adult choir meets at 7:00 p.m.

**2017 OFFERING ENVELOPES** will be available next Sunday, December 10, in the fellowship hall. Please do not use your 2017 envelopes in 2018.

**ANGEL TREE:** When taking an angel please sign the paper on the clipboard. Gifts are to be returned wrapped and **with the angel attached.** Place gifts under the tree no later than **December 10<sup>th</sup>!**

**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.

**WEEKLY EMAILS:** If you are not receiving the weekly email blast, please call the office so we can add your name and email address to the list. We will not add anyone to the weekly email list unless they specifically request it even if we already have your email address.

**WELCA REFORMATION CHALLENGE:** 53 items have been collected to date for First Lutherans 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.

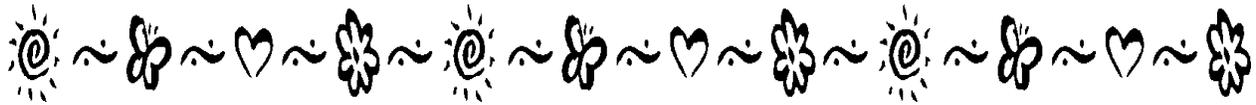
**HELP US DECORATE OUR “NATIVE AMERICAN TREE”** Again this year our “Angel Tree” will be transformed into a “Native American Tree” (once all the angels are gone). By purchasing new children’s hats, scarves, and mittens, you will be helping the children of the Northern Cheyenne and Crow Reservation in Montana. You may place your donations in the tree, under the tree, or bring them to the church office. Please see the December newsletter for additional details. Thank you!

**THE ANNUAL DISTRIBUTION OF OUTREACH FUNDS** from our trust account will be decided in December. Proposed recipients may be submitted by any congregation member by contacting a member of council and providing a brief description of their submittal by December 10th.

**NEW PROCEDURE:** To disarm or arm the security system, enter the security code and then press the **ENT** button located on the bottom right hand corner of the keypad.

**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.

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



## **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 Day.**

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

*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.*