

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
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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!

PLEASE turn off your cell phones before worship.

TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 27, 2017

8:15 AM & 10:00 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.

Gracious God, **have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of +Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

Hymn “Built on a Rock”

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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.**

Glory to God

Assisting minister



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

All



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.

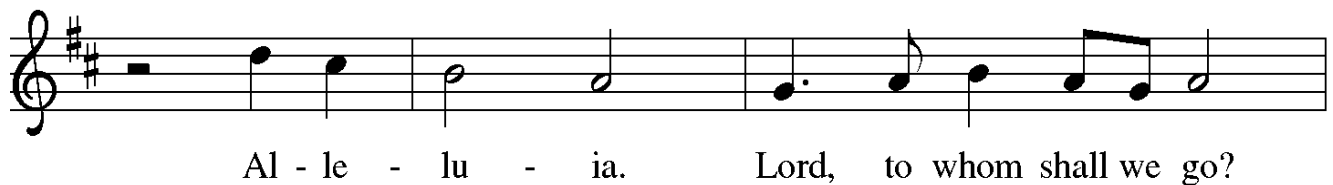
WORD

First Reading Isaiah 51:1-6 (Celebrate insert)

Psalm 138 (Celebrate insert)
(Read responsively)

Second Reading Romans 12:1-8 (Celebrate insert)
R/Thanks be to God!

Gospel Acclamation



Gospel Matthew 16:13-20

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

Children's Sermon

Sermon

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

Welcome to Visitors

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

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

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.

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 “Faith of Our Fathers”

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Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

BLESSED TO BLESS

SERVING TODAY:

ACOLYTES are Drew Erdman, Bradley Schmidt and Christopher Steel.

LECTORS are Sue Boggs and Sunshine Keiser.

COMMUNION ASSISTANT is Rocco Marusko.

WORSHIP ASSISTANT is Dianna Marusko.

AUDIO/VISUAL (AV) MINISTRY is provided by Liz Rowe, Tim Irwin and Spencer Irwin. CD's will be delivered by Nola Petrazzi.

GREETERS include at 8:15 Dianna Marusko- north door, Pastor Kemp - center, Joanie Knobloch - south door; at 10:00 Dianna Marusko - north door, Pastor Kemp - center, Al Danilko - south door.

PRAYER CONCERNS:

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER Lisa, Brandie Saraceni, Robert Errett, Rachel, Bobbie, Lee and her family, Sue Baker, Elizabeth, Cheryl, Jaison Smith and Josh, Danelle and Henry Reinsburrow.

THE ALTAR FLOWERS are given in memory of Edward and Isabel Hochrein on their anniversary by their 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:

PLEASE NOTE that our Recessional Hymn is # 813, not # 812.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION meets Tuesday, 7:00 PM.

PROPERTY meets Wednesday, 6:30 PM.

EXECUTIVE meets Wednesday, 7:00 PM.

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

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED September 4 in observance of Labor Day.

IMPORTANT: Our regular worship schedule (8:15 and 10:45) will begin Sunday, September 10. Please note this is a change from the previously announced September 3 date. Sunday School will also resume on September 10 with a lunch for the congregation following the 10:45 service.

Sunday, September 3

Worship at 8:15 and 10:00

Sunday, September 10

Worship at 8:15 and 10:45

Sunday School at 9:30

Luncheon following 10:45 service

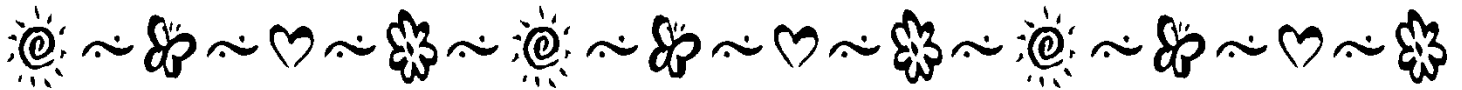
CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST begins September 17. Sign up calendar and instructions are on the table in the narthex. Please sign up for a Sunday.

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.



YOUTH going into grades 8—12 who are interested in attending the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston Texas from June 27—July 1, 2018 should contact the church office at 724-834-1457 and leave your name and phone number. You can also find more information on the gathering at www.elca.org/YouthGathering.



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*

REFORMATION CHALLENGE

WELCA is collecting gift cards, in any amount, from Walmart or Target for Human Trafficking Safe Houses. The collection boxes are located in the Narthex and the entrance to the Educational Building. Thank you for your continued support, participation and generosity.

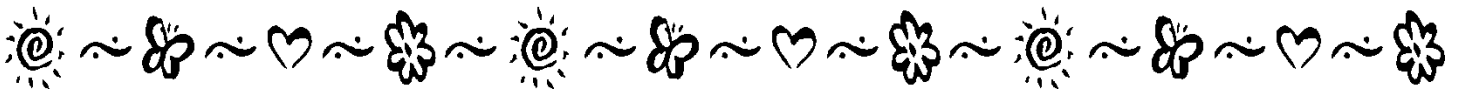
Ruth Circle will meet Thursday, September 14 at 7:30 in the church parlor. All women are invited and welcomed. We are looking for someone to assume the role of leader and also for someone to assume the role of treasurer/secretary. Transitional help will be provided. Please prayerfully consider accepting one of these roles.





HELP NEEDED!

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