

FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
246 South Main Street
Greensburg, Pennsylvania 15601-3183
T: 724-834-1457
F: 724-834-1469
felchurch.org

PASTOR.....Larry Kemp
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC.....Marvin Huls
CHURCH TREASURER..... Patti Sias
OFFICE MANAGER.....Patricia Pluck
OFFICE SECRETARY.....Susan Woodcox
CUSTODIAN..... Jaison Smith

CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Merle Baker
Cindy Black
Rebecca Brunetta
Megan Zobb Secretary
Bob Errett
Suzy Flory
Jeanne Kiss
Bobbie Laciak Vice President
Sue Ross
Brandie Saraceni President
Amy Schultz
Kim von Schlichten

WORSHIP WITH US

Sunday Church School 9:30 A.M.
SCS does not meet in June, July or August

Sunday Worship 8:15 A.M. & 10:45 A.M.
Summer Schedule 8:15 A.M. & 10:00 A.M.

Elevator and Hearing Assistance Available

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED
FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
246 SOUTH MAIN STREET
GREENSBURG, PA 15601-3183

NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE PAID
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**FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
GREENSBURG, PA**

PHONE 724-834-1457
FAX 724-834-1469

felchurch.org



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DECEMBER 2017

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

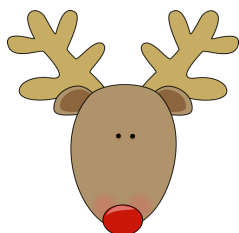
10:00 AM service only



**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**

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 3. 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



FIRLU HAS HEARD...

-that thanks go to the youth and adults who assisted in distributing hot dogs and hot chocolate during the Holiday parade.

-that all offerings received in the church office or postmarked on or before December 31st will be recorded as a current year offering.

-that the church office will be closed Monday, December 25th.

-that First Lutheran Church's Memorial Fund has received gifts in memory of **Sara J. Smith** by Barry & Beverly Attenberger, Betty G. Harrold, and Judi Seanor and **Hannah K. Ott** by Judi Seanor and Joanne Morgan. We are thankful for these and all gifts.

-that Continental Breakfast is available in the Fellowship Hall between services. Grab some coffee, tea, juice, yogurt, or pastries and join us. Our thanks to Sue Boggs who oversees this ministry. If you would like to help, speak to Sue or call the church office.

-that the JAVA TABLE will be open in the Fellowship Hall December 17 between worship services. Complete your Christmas shopping with Fair Trade coffees, teas, and chocolates.

-that there will be no Sunday Church School on Christmas Eve Day or New Year's Eve Day. Worship services on Sunday, December 24 & 31 will be at 10:00 AM.

-that assistance is greatly needed the third Thursday of the month by 8:00 AM to unload the truck and sort groceries for Food Pantry distribution.

-that Angel Food cakes (home baked or purchased) are needed the first Sunday of every month for Meals on Wheels. Bring your cake to the church office. Thanks!

-that the deadline for the January newsletter is Friday, December 15. Please be prompt. You may submit your articles to office@felchurch.org.

See you at worship,
FIRLU



POINSETTIAS

Poinsettias will again decorate our church on Christmas Eve. You are invited to purchase a plant at a cost of \$8.00 and “lend” it to the parish. Plants that are purchased may be removed from the church following the 10:00 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service.

Your purchase may be made “in memory of” or “in honor of” the person(s) of your choosing. Please indicate your preference and return this form with your payment. The florist must have our order by **Monday, December 4.**

In honor of _____

By _____

And/Or

In Memory of _____

By _____

Amount enclosed \$ _____

OPERATION REINDEER GIFT SUGGESTIONS continued:

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
- *gently-used luggage

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.

PLEASE HELP!



Altar Guild is in dire need of LARGE juice cans. You may drop them off in the church office.

Do you have an email to share with the church office?

We are currently looking to update the church’s contact information and would like to send out timely congregational information via email to those who wish to receive it. If you would like to be placed on the congregational email list, please complete the following and either place it in the offering plate or return it to the church office.

_____ Yes, I would like to receive email from the church

Name: _____

Email: _____

If you have a change of address or telephone number to share with the church office, please complete the following:

New Address: _____

New Telephone Number: _____

Dinner for 8

“For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.”

Lutherans love to eat, especially in groups. I am offering a great opportunity for food, fun, and fellowship. My wife Kathy and I were introduced to a social activity called Dinners for 8 at a former church.

A coordinator matches a group of 4 couples. One is chosen to host the dinner and cooks the main dish. The host assigns the other 3 couples a starch dish, a vegetable or salad, and dessert. They all agree on a date, and meet to share a meal and talk about life, family, or whatever may come up.

The next time around, another host is picked, with other members of the church. Not a couple? No problem, it can be Dinners for 7 or 9. Maybe you don’t have a large house. Ask to host during the summer and have a cookout, or maybe eat in a restaurant, (Dutch of course). The idea is getting to know members of our church family through food and fellowship, and maybe trade some recipes. This is a great opportunity for a night out without the kids, so wine is allowed.

If we have more than 8, we can have two, or three or more groups. Because some of us are very busy, we can assign the dinners 4 times during the year, the first group will be Jan / Feb / March. This gives a three month window to get your group together. At the end of the year, we usually planned a Christmas Party at a local restaurant where everyone got together at the same time.

I can act as the coordinator. That’s the first step. Second is to compile a list of those who wish to participate. I would love to start this at the first of the year.

If you are interested, please forward your names, phone number and e-mail address to me at cmcmas24@comcast.net or (412) 889-8147. I will then compile a list and share it with the group in time for our first dinners.

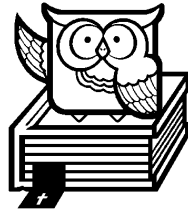
Kathy and I were involved in a group and met some great people, some lasting friendships, a lot of laughs, and shared some great recipes.

In his name

Clint McMaster

December Library News

First Lutheran library is located on the second floor of the Education building. New materials are added each month for the Christian education and reading enjoyment of all church members and their families.



New in our library this month:

“Together by Grace, Introducing the Lutherans”, edited by Kathryn A. Kleinhans – This volume takes us on a journey across this broad landscape of faith and time, going back 500 years while pointing to the future. Over two dozen gifted writers – scholars, pastors, leaders, activists – paint a colorful map for this journey. Newcomers will find intriguing entry points, and lifelong Lutherans will discover new dimensions. Whether it’s a passion for a grace-filled theology, worship and music that lift spirits or a deep concern for wholeness and justice, Lutherans are engaged in the world, alongside other Christians and those of various faiths.

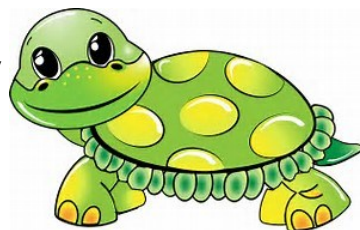
God’s passion to bring all things together by grace, to make us alive together with Christ – makes possible a life of living, daring confidence in God’s grace together.

“Martin Luther and the Called Life”, by Mark D. Tranvik – One of the hallmarks of Luther’s theology was its concern for daily life. In the midst of debates about justification and salvation, church authority, and the Lord’s Supper, Luther himself demonstrated his own powerful sense of vocation.

In this refreshing book, Mark D. Tranvik turns attention to the importance of vocation in Luther’s life and in doing so discovers renewed insights into this important doctrine. Tranvik balances the historical roots of Luther’s thought and contemporary relevance with skill and vigor.

New in our Children’s Library:

“A Loud Winter’s Nap”, by Katy Hudson – A beautifully illustrated children’s picture book with a lesson in friendship. Tortoise is set in his ways. He doesn’t like change and he doesn’t want to change. But in this witty story, Tortoise is forced to try something new. Will winter fun and caring friends change Tortoise’s view of winter?



Serving At Worship In December 2017

12/3

12/10

12/17

12/24

12/31

ACOLYTES

Reese Woodley
Cade Cavanaugh

Emma Armstrong
Kendyl Crosby

Drew Erdman
Christopher Steel

Alyssa Tomb
Haley Tomb

Erika Ament

ASSISTING MINISTERS

Pat Yost

Erik Hanzel

Rocco Marusko

Suzy Flory

Dianna Marusko

LECTORS

David von Schlichten
Teresa Graziotto

Gail Armstrong
Jeanne Christensen

Sue Boggs
Shirley Huls

Rick Druschel

Mark Barnhart

AV MINISTRY TEAM

Dennis Acita
Al Danilko

Drew Erdman

Dwight Miller
Lexi Hahn
Scott Hahn

Liz Rowe
Tim Irwin
Spencer Irwin

Delivery

Cheryl Lucas

Nola Petrazzi

Betty Kraus

Helen Marie Flinger

Betty Mohney

8:15 USHERS

Kip Boggs- chief
Sue Boggs
Noah Boggs

10:45 USHERS

Barry Attenberger - chief
Bev Attenberger
Al Danilko
Al Leppold

ALTAR GUILD

Dianna Marusko - coordinator
Gwen Irwin
Suzy Flory
Cindy Black

GIVING TREE “ANGELS” AVAILABLE



Our “Giving Tree” will have angels which contain names of needy children and gift suggestions. (You do NOT need to purchase all of the suggestions.) Some of these children are from families helped through our food pantry. Some are from our preschool.

If you wish to help, take an angel and please sign your name and phone number next to the child’s number on the clipboard provided. **Gifts should be wrapped and placed under the tree or returned to the church office no later than Sunday, December 10.** The gifts will be distributed at the December 21 Food Pantry.

HELP US DECORATE OUR “NATIVE AMERICAN” TREE

Native American children need our help this Christmas. The Northern Cheyenne and Crow Reservation in Montana is in desperate need of warm clothing for their children. Every winter, Native Americans face weather conditions that could lead to hypothermia. Fifty nine percent of homes are substandard: lacking water, electricity, insulation, or a sewage system.

This year our “Angel Tree” will be transformed into a “Native American Tree” (Once all the angels are gone.) Please help us decorate the “Native American Tree” by purchasing new children’s hats, scarves and mittens. You may place your purchases in the tree, under the tree or bring them to the church office.

On December 18, we will mail our blessed hats, scarves gloves and mittens to Mimi (who is in charge of Donor Relations) in Ashland, Montana. She will distribute our winter wear to the children of the Northern Cheyenne and Crow Reservation.



Reformation Reflections continued...

The first Lutheran hymnal, The Wittenberg Hymnal, was created by Martin Luther and Paul Speratus. It contained 8 hymns, 4 by Luther, 3 by Speratus and 1 anonymous hymn attributed to Justus Jonas. They were gathered from a loose collection of songs and broadsheets. The Wittenberg Hymnal was printed around the turn of the year 1523/1524 in Nuremberg. The hymnal was in such great demand that another collection was published that same year. Called the Erfurt Enchiridion, it contained 26 hymns, 18 of which were written by Luther. Luther’s adversaries complained, “...the whole people are singing themselves into his doctrine.”

Luther was convinced of his sin. He looked deep into himself and saw who he should be and struggled to attain it. He was absolutely sure of the promise of God’s love and forgiveness and his hymn poems reflect that deep belief.

In the Christmas Carol, *From Heaven Above to Earth I Come*, he wrote:

“This is the Christ, God’s Son most high who hears your sad and bitter cry. He will himself your Savior be and from all sin will set you free.”

In *A Mighty Fortress*, sometimes referred to as the Lutheran theme song, he ends the with a triumphant, “the Kingdom’s ours forever.”

Joan Orr

Reformation Reflections

In this the last month of the year of commemoration of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation it seems fitting that we take a look at Martin Luther's love of music.

The people of the 16th Century were not blessed with radios, CDs, records, play lists or any kind of sound reproduction device. If they wanted to hear music they had to make it themselves or listen to the professionals of the day—the minstrels who travelled from place to place to share their music and laughter in the streets and taverns of the towns and villages of Germany.

Now, if you were a wealthy landowner you could hire your own minstrels and have concerts in your dining hall at your command.

So, when you hear the story of a 13-year old Martin Luther and his fellow students singing in the streets for additional food for their school dining hall it is not so shocking. In the light of today's use of music by almost everyone, the people must have thirsted for the sound of music of any kind—and the boys caroling for food would most probably be welcomed.

Martin Luther sang, played the flute and the lute—an early stringed instrument with frets and tuning pegs, an ancestor of the present-day guitar. Most 16th century instruments were primitive and in the early stages of development compared with the instruments used today.

In the churches, abbeys and monasteries the nuns and monks sang their praises to God a cappella AND in Latin. With his love of music, it seems only natural that Luther would turn to music to be used in the worship of God. Luther is cited as saying, "The devil doesn't stay where there is music."

continued

SPECIAL THANKS to Bob Evans, 600 Greengate Centre, for helping our Preschool celebrate "The First Thanksgiving". The store manager, Christine, treated each of our little ones with a full turkey dinner. We wore our turkey headbands, retold the story of the First Thanksgiving with story props and gave thanks for all our blessings!



Women of the **ELCA** 

REFORMATION CHALLENGE: We continue to collect canned goods for our food pantry through December 31 and that will conclude our Reformation Challenge. WELCA thanks all who contributed items throughout the challenge. Thought you would like to see the totals for each quarter. These totals are for our Southwest Synod - 4,000 paper products for local food banks, 498 bras, 661 boxers, 26 women's briefs, 42 pairs of socks, 9 undershirts, 7 handkerchiefs for Abiding Ministries, and 188 gift cards that total \$3,390.00 for victims of Human Trafficking. Again, our sincere thanks for your continued support of this challenge.

BUILDING CONCERNS

If you are the last one to leave the building, please be sure that all the doors are locked and the security system is set following the new procedure that is published above the security system keypad. If you have questions, please see Pastor or Dean Cichetti.

December 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 8:15 W&S 9:30 SCS 10:45 W&S	4	5	6 FOOD/HEART 7:00 Council	7 6:15 Bell Choir 7:00 Choir	8	9
10 8:15 W&S 9:30 SCS 10:45 W&S 9:30 IT	11	12 6:00 Personnel	13 FOOD/HEART	14 6:15 Bell Choir 7:00 Choir	15 <i>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</i>	16
17 8:15 W&S 9:30 SCS 10:45 W&S JAVA TABLE 9:30 Soc. Ministry	18	19 6:30 Finance 7:00 Christian Ed	20 FOOD/HEART	21 FOOD PANTRY 7:00 Choir	22	23
24 10:00 W&S No SCS JAVA TABLE Christmas Eve: 7:00 & 10:00 PM	25 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	26	27 FOOD/HEART 6:00 Executive 6:30 Property	28	29	30
31 10:00 W&S No SCS						

OFFERING ENVELOPES
AVAILABLE
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10



2018 offering envelopes will be available in the fellowship hall beginning Sunday, December 10. You are asked to pick up your envelopes before or after worship, or anytime during the week. Please deliver a box to a shut-in, family member, or neighbor who may not be able to take their box.

Please DO NOT use 2018 envelopes before January first. Offerings received in the church office or postmarked on or before December 31st will be credited as gifts for 2017.