

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
 GREENSBURG, PA 15601
 PERMIT #436

FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
 GREENSBURG, PA

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

felchurch.org



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NOVEMBER 2017



REMEMBERING THE SAINTS ON NOVEMBER 5

We give thanks to God for all those who have passed on in faith and those who have been baptized into the faith this past year.

Those Who Have Passed

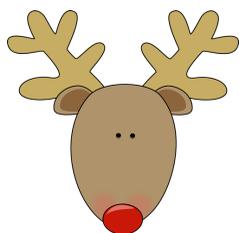
Pamela Jennings
 Helen Byers
 Betty McAfee
 Hannah Ott
 Minnie Poole
 Sara Smith

Baptized

Wyatt William Boggs
 Mle Isabelle Jones
 Evelyn Grace Walker
 Camden Michael Hensley
 Miya Lee Perkins
 Augustus Von Victor
 Ava Clair Ulishney
 Logan Patrick Thomas
 Connor Lee Paulus



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!

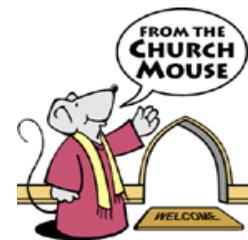
- *sweatshirts & sweatpants *tops, t-shirts *pants and jeans
- *sweaters *socks *undergarments *pajamas *bathrobes
- *mittens gloves *hats, ear muffs *jackets, coats, outerwear

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



FIRLU HAS HEARD...

-that daylight savings time ends on Sunday, November 5. Remember to turn your clocks back one hour!

-that thanks goes out to all those who provided produce from their gardens for our Food From The Heart weekly luncheon. Delicious, nutritious, and greatly appreciated!

-that the Sacrament of Holy Baptism was given to **Logan Patrick Thomas**, son of Carly and Patrick and **Connor Lee Paulus**, son of Katie and Jacob. We rejoice in the waters of baptism and God's gift of new birth.

-that the sympathy of the congregation is extended to the families and friends of **Hannah Ott** and **Sara Smith** as they and we grieve their deaths. May God's promise provide comfort and hope.

-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 November 26 between worship services. Fair Trade coffees, teas, and chocolates will be available for purchase.

-that there will be no Sunday Church School on Christmas Day or New Year's 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 December newsletter is Monday, November 13. Please be prompt. You may submit your articles to ppluck@felchurch.org.

See you at worship,
FIRLU

CHRISTMAS SERVICES SCHEDULE

Thank you to those who completed the Christmas Eve surveys. Your input and suggestions were greatly appreciated. As the result of these surveys, the following revisions have been made to the Christmas schedule. (Worship and Music Team)

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

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

OPERATION REINDEER GIFT SUGGESTIONS continued:

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
- *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.

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: _____

November Library News continued:

New in our Children’s Library:

Baby Wren and the Great Gift by Sally Lloyd-Jones - In the narrow crevice of a giant rock face in a great wide canyon, a baby inside her tiny nest peeped out and the world was filled with such wonderfulness. Sunfish swimming, eagles soaring, kingfishers diving! “What can I do that’s wonderful?” the baby wren wonders. As she takes in the beauty of the canyon home, the tiny wren discovers what was waiting inside her all along - her own beautiful gift.

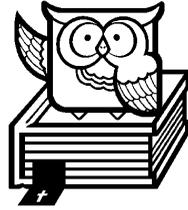


LISTENING POST

On Wednesday evening, November 15 at 7 pm, the pastor will conduct the second in a series of listening posts at First. We will have an abbreviated order for evening prayer with the listening post following prayer. The listening post will again be a town-hall style meeting with the opportunity to share concerns, ask questions and talk about your life in the Church. During the listening post, we will focus our conversation around the question: what have we learned about ourselves in the past five months? Please mark your calendar and plan to join us for prayer and conversation.

November 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:

Resilient Reformer, the Life and Thought of Martin Luther, by Timothy F. Lull and Derek R. Nelson – In this telling, Luther is an energetic, resilient actor, driven by very human strengths and failings, always wishing to do right by his understanding of God and the witness of the Scriptures. At times humorous, always realistic and appropriately critical when necessary, Lull and Nelson tell the story of an amazing, unforgettable life.

40 Day Journey with Martin Luther, Gracia M. Grindal, editor - This book in your hands is an invitation to explore your own spirituality under the guidance of one of the most powerful Christian voices of the last millennium, Martin Luther, paramount leader of the Protestant Reformation in the sixteenth century. This book is an invitation to spend forty days with Luther on a journey that will give you much to think about, much to pray about, and much to do on the road to radical discipleship.

Martin Luther's 95 Theses, with introduction, commentary, and study guide by Timothy J. Wengert - Timothy J. Wengert, one of the best-known interpreters of Luther and Lutheranism active today, sets his newly translated *Ninety-Five Theses* in its historical context with a detailed introduction and illuminating study notes. To help the reader understand the context and the import of the *Ninety-Five Theses*, Wengert provides two related essential documents: *Luther's Letter to Archbishop Albrecht of Mainz* (to which he appended a copy of the *Ninety Five Theses*) and *Luther's 1518 Sermon on Indulgences and Grace* (written to inform the German-speaking public of his view of indulgences).

Serving At Worship In November 2017

11/5

11/12

11/19

11/26

ACOLYTES

Ailanthus Hanzel
Erik Hanzel
Erika Ament
Jacob Julian

Emma Armstrong
Cade Cavanaugh
Caris Rehak

Ailanthus Hanzel
Erik Hanzel
Alyssa Tomb
Haley Tomb

Emma Armstrong
Erika Ament
Kendyl Crosby

11/5 Crucifers: Erik Hanzel, Bradley Schmidt

Torch Bearers: Emma Armstrong, Ailanthus Hanzel, Alyssa Tomb, Haley Tomb

Bible Bearers: Reese Woodley, Christopher Steel

11/26 Crucifers: Ailanthus Hanzel, Caris Rehak

Torch Bearers: Reese Woodley, Erik Hanzel, Alyssa Tomb, Haley Tomb

Bible Bearers: Drew Erdman, Bradley Schmidt

LECTORS

Sherry Menz
Pat Yost

Jean Miller
Carol Baker

Kim Nicassio
Beth Giglio

Kathy McMaster
Megan Zobb

ASSISTING MINISTERS

Erik Hanzel

Suzy Flory

Dianna Marusko

Rebecca Brunetta

AV MINISTRY TEAM

Dennis Acita
Al Danilko

Drew Erdman

Dwight Miller
Lexi Hahn
Scott Hahn

Liz Rowe
Tim Irwin
Spencer Irwin

Delivery

Nola Petrazzi

Betty Kraus

Helen Marie
Flinner

Betty Mohney

8:15 USHERS

Dwight Miller
- chief
Kim Nicassio
Dave Armstrong

10:45 USHERS

Barry Attenberger
- chief
Bev Attenberger
Amy Schultz
Al Danilko

ALTAR GUILD

Kim Woodley
- coordinator
Shirley Huls
Mary Furlong
Leppold

GREENSBURG HOLIDAY PARADE—NOVEMBER 18

Our youth will once again be serving hot dogs and our Evangelism team will be serving hot chocolate at the Holiday Parade on Saturday, November 18.

This is a great opportunity to show Christian welcome and kindness to those in our community. If you are in elementary school, middle school, or high school jump on this opportunity to live out your faith. Likewise, all members of the church are Evangelists, so come and share the warmth of the Gospel as we serve the hot chocolate. Everyone needs to meet at 10:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall to get things ready.

GIVING TREE “ANGELS” AVAILABLE SUNDAY, NOV. 19



Our “Giving Tree” will have angels starting Sunday, November 19. The angels 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 16 Food Pantry.

Reformation Reflections continued...

Now another question was how can they learn if they can’t read? Martin Luther realized that education was the answer. Martin didn’t stop with the education of boys, which would have been accepted well enough in his day and age. No, he strongly believed that every human being should learn to read, including girls and women. Universal education didn’t really begin until the early part of the 20th Century. Luther was a man ahead of his time.

Luther did another very unexpected thing that put him ahead of his time. He left his estate to his wife Katherina. In Saxony, the inheritance law for widows was a coat to wear, a stool to sit on and a cane to help you walk. Martin Luther left his entire estate to his wife Katherina. She had begun to manage their earthly possessions when they were married and she not only managed, she excelled in the management of his household and his possessions. Who else cared about his family enough to take excellent care of them?

After Luther died, this little eccentricity created a whole new controversy. For a while Katie indeed was left with what Saxon law dictated. She knew that Martin had left her the whole estate and since she’d been managing and taking care of said estate for all of their married life, she appealed to her brother, Hans, who was a lawyer, to see if he could get Martin’s will enforced. It took the better part of a year, but Elector John, heir to Duke Frederick the Wise, finally decreed that Martin Luther’s will should be followed.

Martin Luther had a clear intelligence, an open and honest mind and common sense enough to implement the conclusions that he was led to by his thinking. He was a man whose thinking was clearly ahead of his time.

Reformation Reflections

A question! Did your parents teach you the Small Catechism?

I asked this question of a group of Lutheran women at a workshop at Lutherlyn earlier this fall.

Their answer was a loud laugh. Pastors teach the Catechism. A few people conceded that their parents might have taught them the Lord's Prayer, but not the meaning.

With the birth of his first son in June of 1526, Martin Luther became a family man. This turned his mind to pondering ways to teach children. He surveyed his community to see what would need to be done to teach the faith. *The Small Catechism* appeared in May 1529. In that first issue of the catechism he reported what he found: "Good God, what wretchedness I beheld! The common people, especially those who live in the country, have no knowledge whatsoever of Christian teaching, and unfortunately many pastors are quite incompetent and unfitted for teaching. Although the people are supposed to be Christian, are baptized, and receive the holy sacrament, they do not know the Lord's Prayer, The Creed, or the Ten Commandments"

The Small Catechism contains the Ten Commandments, the Apostles' Creed, the Lord's Prayer with explanations, teachings on Holy Baptism, the Sacrament of the Altar and instructions for personal prayer, The Morning Blessing, The Evening Blessing and The Table Blessing—basics of the Christian faith.

The Large Catechism was written for pastors to teach adults and heads of households and contains a more expanded version of the basics.

continued

REFORMATION CHALLENGE: We continue to collect items for our food pantry. The collection bins are in the Narthex and entrance to the educational building, Thank you for your continued support.

Ruth Circle will meet on Thursday November 9th at 7:30 PM in the church parlor. All women of the congregation are welcome. Come join us as we consider Thanksgiving.



PLEASE HELP!

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

CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS, NOVEMBER 5 AND 19

Brief congregational meetings will precede worship services on November 5th and 19th for the purpose of nominating and electing congregation council members.

On November 5th nominations will be received. Balloting and elections will follow two weeks later at the Sunday, November 19th meeting.

November 2017

MATCHING GIFT PROGRAM 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 FOOD/HEART 7:00 Fellowship	2 6:15 Bell Choir 7:00 Choir	3	4
5 8:15 W&S 9:30 SCS 10:45 W&S ALL SAINTS SUNDAY	6	7 4:30 Evangelism 7:00 Cong Council	8 FOOD/HEART	9 6:15 Bell Choir 7:00 Choir 7:30 Ruth Circle	10	11
12 8:15 W&S 9:30 SCS 10:45 W&S Blankets for Vets	13 <i>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</i>	14 6:00 Personnel	15 FOOD/HEART 7:00 Listening Post	16 FOOD PANTRY 6:15 Bell Choir 7:00 Choir	17	18 <i>HOLIDAY PARADE</i>
19 8:15 W&S 9:30 SCS 10:45 W&S Blankets for Vets 9:30 <u>Social Ministry</u>	20	21 6:30 Finance 7:00 Christian Ed	22	23 <i>Happy Thanksgiving</i> 	24 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	25
26 8:15 W&S 9:30 SCS 10:45 W&S CHRIST THE KING JAVA TABLE	27	28	29 FOOD/HEART 6:30 Property 7:30 Executive	30 6:15 Bell Choir 7:00 Choir		

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.