

FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
246 South Main Street  
Greensburg, Pennsylvania 15601-3183  
T: 724-834-1457  
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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 Danilko 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

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GREENSBURG, PA

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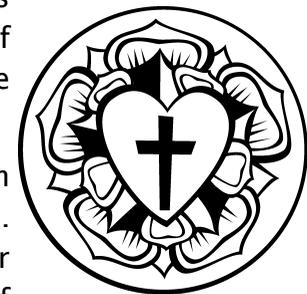


OCTOBER 2017

JOYFULLY CELEBRATING OUR LUTHERAN ROOTS

On October 31, 1517, Martin Luther, a German monk and University Professor issued a challenge to debate any fellow professor regarding 95 points of concern about the teachings of the church. As was the custom, this challenge was posted on the door of the University Church. This challenge was discovered by someone who was at the cutting edge of technology, a printer, and these 95 Theses for debate were circulated to the general public.

Thus began the Reformation. This month is the 500th anniversary of the beginning of the Lutheran Reformation. Many events will be observed around our country, in our synod and in our church. This ought to be a great time of celebrating our roots, reflecting on where we have been, and pondering the future of God's work among us.



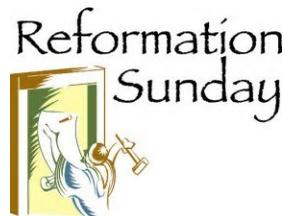
**Be sure to read through this newsletter for all the special events scheduled to celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation!**

## BIBLE PRESENTATION, OCTOBER 22

The Bible says, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." (Psalm 119:105)

When children are Baptized, parents promise to place the Holy Scriptures in their child's hands. We, the people of First Lutheran accompany that promise with our pledge to support parents in raising their children in the Christian faith.

On October 22, at both services, these promises will merge as age appropriate Bibles will be presented to our three/four year olds, our third, fourth and seventh graders. We pray that the hands that receive these Bibles will often open them with excitement and intrigue as they come to know the one whom the pages cradle, Jesus Christ, our Lord.



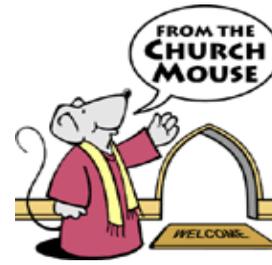
October 29 will be the Reformation Celebration. During the SCS hour there will be cake and punch in the Fellowship Hall for all students and adults. SCS students will also work on a Reformation craft during that time as well.

## 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 /or elections will follow two weeks later at the Sunday, November 19th meeting.

## FIRLU HAS HEARD...



-that as of August 25th our offerings receipts are 102,996; last year they were \$119,926.

**-SAVE THE DATE!** Saturday, October 28, 2017, A Lutheran/Catholic Day of Commemoration of Hope, 10:00 AM - 3:45 PM. Keynote speaker Dr. John Borelli (Georgetown University), break out groups and worship in the Basilica at St. Vincent College. \$10.00 cost includes lunch. <https://tinyurl.com/ydy2r2x2>

**-YOU ARE INVITED** to attend a REFORMATION HYMN FESTIVAL on Sunday, October 29 at 4:00 PM at First Lutheran Church, Greensburg. Choir members, pastors and instrumentalists from the five Lutheran churches in Greensburg will join for a joyous celebration featuring hymns, readings and prayers, including a grand finale of A MIGHTY FORTRESS with 95 hand bells ringing.

-that 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.

-that Continental Breakfast is available in the fellowship hall between services. Grab some coffee, tea, juice, yogurt, or pastries and join us. If you would like to help, speak to Sue Boggs or call the church office.

-that the JAVA TABLE will be open in the fellowship hall on Sunday, October 22 between worship services. Fair Trade coffees, teas, and chocolates will be available for purchase. Please contact the church office if you would like any of the Fair Trade products before then.

-that registrations are still being accepted for the 2017-2018 term of the First Lutheran Preschool. Classes are offered for children ages 3 and 4. Please speak to Barb Krunszyinsky or call the church office for more information.

-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 November newsletter is Monday, October 16. Please be prompt. You may submit your articles to [office@felchurch.org](mailto:office@felchurch.org).

See you at worship,  
FIRLU

## CHRISTMAS EVE SURVEY

If you normally attend the earlier FAMILY SERVICE, please indicate your time preference. If you normally attend the CANDLELIGHT SERVICE, please indicate your time preference. If you attend or might attend both, check one time for each.

Please remove the survey and place it in the offering plates, drop it off at the church office, give it to an usher, a member of the W&M Committee (Suzy Flory, Gwen Irwin, Tom Flory, Rebecca Brunetta, Diana Marusko) or me. Thank you for your input. We will seriously consider your ideas and suggestions.

\_\_\_\_\_ 4:00 PM Family Service

\_\_\_\_\_ 5:00 PM Family Service

\_\_\_\_\_ 7:00 PM Family Service

\_\_\_\_\_ 7:00/7:30 PM Candlelight Communion Service

\_\_\_\_\_ 10:00 PM Candlelight Communion Service

\_\_\_\_\_ 11:00 PM Candlelight Communion Service

\_\_\_\_\_ with Communion at the early service

### COMMENTS:

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

## COUNCIL NOMINATIONS

So, you're wondering what it means to be a member of the Congregational Council. Well, yes, the Council is the governing body of the church. They are responsible for the general oversight of the life and activities of the congregation.

Yes, that's a pretty broad statement. But what are the responsibilities of a Council Member? The main responsibility is to involve all members of this congregation in worship, learning, witness, service and support and to promote a congregational climate of peace and goodwill.

Other responsibilities include:

- attending monthly Council meetings held the first Tuesday of each month;
- to oversee and provide for the administration of this congregation to enable it to fulfill its functions and perform its mission;
- acting as liaison to at least one of the church's Activation Teams - attending those meetings and reporting activities to the Council;
- maintaining supportive relationships with the pastor and staff;
- to create mutual understanding if any differences and/or conflicts arise in the congregation;
- and be responsible, as a Council, for the financial and property matters of this congregation.

"Wow, that's a lot of responsibilities. I'm not sure I can commit to all of that....."  
I can agree, being a member of the Congregational Council is a big responsibility, but it's also a great way to learn the "behind the scenes" workings of the church.

Our Council is a hard working, supportive group. Monthly meetings are sometimes very serious but are often times interesting and fun. Meetings last about 1 - 1 ½ hours. A Council "retreat" is held on a Saturday in January. This time is used to get to know one another better, to discuss ways to be a better Council presence in the Congregation and for fellowship.

So, this Council member stuff sounds pretty interesting but you need to know more? Find out by talking with a present Council member - we are always open and available to the congregation.

And, last but not least..... nominations are currently being taken. Terms are for 3 years and begin in January. Ages high school to ??? are eligible to be elected. Members of the Nominations Activation Team are: Al Danilko, Bobbie Laciak Kim von Schlichten, Dan Lucas and Sue Boggs.

# LUTHERAN DISASTER RELIEF

You can be sure of this: when disaster strikes, Lutherans are there. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) has a division in it that keeps its eyes open for disasters, near and far, and organizes help for them. Because this is within the ELCA's organization, nearly every penny of help that is given in donations reaches the afflicted area. Internationally, Lutheran World Relief has the reputation of being one of the best in using its resources and providing effective relief.

So, if you are watching the news and see that disaster has hit somewhere, and you would like to help, here's what you can do:

- Write out a check to First Lutheran Church (or you can give cash).
- Place it in one of the gold envelopes which you can find in the pew racks and note the disaster to which you are giving on the outside of the gold envelope
- Put the envelope in the offering basket or you can bring it to the church office

Your donation will swiftly be forwarded to the ELCA's disaster relief office, and your gift will be quickly put to good work.

## 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 Activating 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.

## CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE SURVEY

Wow! Christmas Eve this year falls on a SUNDAY. The Worship and Music Committee has discussed various options for the service schedule on that day. The Committee did not feel it was feasible to do FOUR services on that day (two morning, two evening). Therefore, the morning service on SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24 will be held at 10:00 AM, and will be celebrated as the **FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**.

Attendance at both the 7:00 PM and 11:00 PM services has declined over the past five years, more so at the later service. The Worship and Music Committee is considering a change to these times to better meet the desires of the congregation. We would greatly appreciate your input on the service schedule for Christmas Eve.

If you normally attend the earlier FAMILY SERVICE, please indicate your time preference. If you normally attend the CANDLELIGHT SERVICE, please indicate your time preference. If you attend or might attend both, check one time for each. There has been some interest in having Holy Communion at both services. Please check this option for "yes" or simply leave it blank. Please complete only one survey per person.

Please return surveys as soon as possible to allow time to assess the responses and advertise any time changes for Christmas Eve. Return surveys to an usher, the church office, a member of the W&M Committee (Suzy Flory, Gwen Irwin, Tom Flory, Rebecca Brunetta, Dianna Marusko) or me. Thank you so much for your input. We will take seriously your ideas and suggestions.

Marvin Huls

**Please turn over for survey!**

# Serving At Worship In October 2017

10/1                      10/8                      10/15                      10/22                      10/29

## ACOLYTES

Drew Erdman	Ailanthus and	Reese Woodley	Drew Erdman	Ailanthus
Erika Ament	Erik Hanzel	Caris Rehak	Kendyl Crosby	Hanzel
Christopher	Cade		Jacob Julian	Erik Hanzel
Steel	Cavanaugh			Alyssa Tomb
	Bradley Schmidt			Haley Tomb

## LECTORS

Kathy	David von	Gail Armstrong	Sue Boggs	Mark Barnhart
McMaster	Schlichten	Rebecca	Dianna	Suzy Flory
Joan Orr	Amy Schultz	Brunetta	Marusko	

## Assisting Ministers

Dianna	Suzy Flory	Rebecca	Pat Yost	Rocco
Marusko		Brunetta		Marusko

## AV MINISTRY TEAM

Drew Erdman	Drew Erdman	Dwight Miller	Liz Rowe
Tim Irwin	Tim Irwin	Lexi Hahn	Tim Irwin
		Scott Hahn	Spencer Irwin

## Delivery

Nola Petrazzi	Betty Kraus	Helen Marie	Betty Mohney	Cheryl Lucas
		Flinner		

## 8:15 USHERS    10:00 USHERS    ALTAR GUILD

-chief	Dan Lucas -	Kim Woodley -
Dave and Sue	chief	coordinator
Cobb	John Syner	Robin Weyandt
	Jack Black	Babs Pascarella
		Sherry Menz

# FIRST LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL

Whoever welcomes a little child like this in My name welcomes me.

Matthew 18:5

Once again, the sound of children's laughter and footsteps blesses our church. Monday through Friday the sanctuary lights are on and our little ones are learning that they are special and loved. Loved by their families, loved by Jesus, and loved by God.

Our Bible lesson for the month of September was "Jesus Blesses the Children". The first day of preschool began with our preschoolers, parents, grandparents and caregivers being welcomed into our sanctuary. Pastor Larry led us in prayer, blessing our little ones, their backpacks, their parents (some in tears), grandparents, caregivers and Miss Cindy and Miss Barb.



Jesus loved little children. When parents brought their children to Him, He took them in His arms and blessed them.

Thank you to the congregation for prayers and generous support of our Preschool Bus. The red and green apples provide a year full of learning opportunities, social and emotional development, and happy memories.

**Don't you see that children are God's best gift?...His generous legacy?**

Psalm 127:3



## **BACK TO SCHOOL BUS" NEEDS YOUR HELP**

Our Preschool Bus is parked in the education building foyer. It contains green apple post-it note suggestions for supplies needed for this year's preschool classes.

If you are willing to help, please remove a green apple sticker with a financial gift suggestion. You may place your gift in the offering plate or turn it into the office and we will purchase the item.

Our little ones and their teachers appreciate your gifts!

**REFORMATION CHALLENGE:** Well here we are right in the middle of fall. Things are up and running in full force by now, so is our WELCA. October, November and December marks the end of our Reformation Challenge. We are asking for canned foods to be donated to our local food bank. The collection bins are in the Narthex and entrance to the educational building, We appreciate your previous contributions and look forward to ending the Challenge with our collection boxes overflowing.

**Ruth Circle** will meet on Thursday October 12th at 7:30 PM in the parlor. We are planning an evening of Reformation Celebration! Come and join us as we finish our series on Martin Luther, (thank you Joan!), have some delicious dessert, and have some fun getting pictures taken with Martin and Katie Luther! Now, how can you miss that? There might even be a picture tour of Germany. We welcome all women of the congregation so plan to join us.

**Looking ahead,** Ruth Circle will meet on Thursday November 9th. We are planning a meeting that will focus on the theme of Thanksgiving. Wonder what we will do for that?

**WELCA FALL CLUSTER MEETING** is Saturday, October 14 at St. Mathias Lutheran Church. All women of the church are invited to attend. Registration begins at 9:00 AM with light refreshments and worship service will begin at 9:30 AM. The program will be COME MEET KATIE LUTHER presented by Joan Orr. To register, call Tina Weiner at 724-832-9541 by October 11th.



## Reformation Reflections Continued

The **Mennonites & Amish** originally named after Menno Simons, from Reform roots, were the original Ana-Baptists who were against infant baptism—only baptizing believing adults.

The **Baptists** claim no single leader and no distinctive creed. The Mennonites were probably the closest ancestors of the Baptists. Adult believer's baptism by immersion is one of the ties between individual Baptist congregations. In 1641 Roger Williams established a congregation of Calvinistic Baptists in Rhode Island.

The **Episcopalian (Church of England)** Reformation was, at the beginning, mostly political—Henry the VIII wanted a divorce from his first wife and the Pope would not grant him one.

The **Methodists, Congregationalists and Independents** are an offshoot of the Church of England. From this group came the Pilgrim Fathers who brought their religion to America on the Mayflower.

The list goes on, the **Society of Friends (Quakers)**, the **Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA)** and the **Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA)**, the **Seventh Day Adventists**, the **Unitarian Church**, the **Mormons**, the **Salvation Army**, **Frontier Christianity** with its hellfire preaching and other groups not named here.

And the explosion continues—Television Evangelists and Mega Churches. So, let's rejoice at this 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation, in the fact that we are not torturing or killing each other anymore—that finally stopped in the late 20<sup>th</sup> Century with the peace in Northern Ireland. Maybe someday Lutheran groups will also make their peace with each other.

In the ELCA today we are friends with the Presbyterians and the Episcopalians sharing Holy Communion ties with each other; and we are talking friendship with the Roman Catholic Church. Steps toward understanding each other and accepting that God loves us all.

Joan Orr

## Reformation Reflections

In the year of our Lord 313 the Roman Emperor, Constantine the Great, established Christianity as the state religion of the entire empire. This was not an act of faith, but a political decision, an attempt to cement the far-flung reaches of the crumbling Roman Empire. In part, the Roman Empire became the Holy Roman Empire. Constantine paid travelling expenses to representatives from locations across the entire empire to attend the Council at Nicaea. This Great Council formulated the Nicene Creed (page 104 in the Evangelical Lutheran Book of Worship).

Under the leadership from Rome the church developed into a huge power, a combination of religion and politics with the church holding the ace card, the keys to heaven. It was this power that Martin Luther faced when he nailed his 95 Theses to the castle church door in Wittenberg on October of 1517.

But Martin Luther was not the first. In the monasteries, abbeys and universities of the medieval world ideas about God and the meaning of life were stirring. The Renaissance was dawning and change was in the air. Church and state leaders protected their power and fought the changes with the stocks, whippings, torture and public executions.

In 1457 John Huss led a group of Christians he called “Unity of the Brethren.” The group called for the repudiation of war, political power, humans laws and the laws of the papacy. Terrible and cruel persecution followed and John Huss was tried and burned at the stake. We know this group today as the **Moravians**. They survived by fleeing to the hills and wilderness areas of Czechoslovakia. They were avid missionaries and the group spread to Germany, and eventually to North America.

The real explosion of ideas about God, who He is, who we are and how to worship Him, came after Luther posted the 95 Theses. Lutheranism spread to Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Finland and, of course to North America.

The **Reform Church** began in Switzerland. Ulrich Zwingli based in Zurich. John Calvin in Geneva and Desiderius Erasmus, born in Rotterdam (famous in Lutheranism for his debate with Martin Luther) started the Reform Church in Holland and eventually moved to Basel to be closer to the center of the movement. The Scottish Reformation was led by John Knox and the **Presbyterian Church** comes out of the Reform tradition of Ulrich Zwingli.

Continued

## 2018 ELCA YOUTH GATHERING

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](http://www.elca.org/YouthGathering).



## 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.

## PASTOR'S CONTACT INFORMATION

Pastor Larry Kemp may be reached either at the church office, by calling his mobile number at 412-302-6988 or email at [pastor125kemp2@verizon.net](mailto:pastor125kemp2@verizon.net). If the concern is of an urgent nature, please call his mobile number.

# October 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 8:15 W&S 9:30 SCS 10:45 W&S	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>  7:00 Cong Council	<b>4</b> FOOD/HEART  7:00 Fellowship	<b>5</b>  6:15 Bell Choir 7:00 Choir	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 8:15 W&S 9:30 SCS 10:45 W&S	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>  6:00 Personnel	<b>11</b> FOOD/HEART	<b>12</b>  6:15 Bell Choir 7:00 Choir 7:30 Ruth Circle	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>  1:00 PM Animal Blessing
<b>15</b> 8:15 W&S 9:30 SCS 10:45 W&S	<b>16</b>  <i>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</i>	<b>17</b>  6:30 Finance 7:00 Christian Ed	<b>18</b> FOOD/HEART	<b>19</b> FOOD PANTRY  6:15 Bell Choir 7:00 Choir	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 8:15 W&S 9:30 SCS 10:45 W&S JAVA TABLE 9:30 Social Ministry	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> FOOD/HEART  6:30 Property 7:00 Executive	<b>26</b>  6:15 Bell Choir 7:00 Choir 8:00 Worship & Music	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 8:15 W&S 9:30 SCS 10:45 W&S  4:00 PM Reformation Hymn Festival	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>  				

## ANIMAL BLESSING at FIRST



On Saturday, October 14 at 1:00 PM, First will have its first ever animal blessing in the park. You are invited to bring your pet (animal or a picture of it) as we offer God's blessing for its place in your life and commemorate the work of Francis of Assisi in the life of the Church. If you do bring your pet or animal, it cannot be a threat to the safety of people or other animals and needs to be completely within your control either on a leash or in some type of cage. And of course, we ask that you clean up after it. If you have any questions, please contact pastor.