

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 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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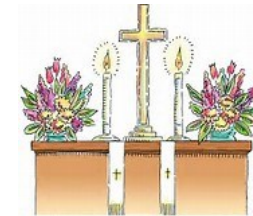


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SEPTEMBER 2017



Worship Schedule

**REGULAR WORSHIP SERVICES RESUME ON
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10**

We will return to our regular worship schedule on Sunday, September 10, with worship services at 8:15 and 10:45 AM.

Sunday Church School will resume with a Rally Day on Sunday, September 10. Information on Rally Day is included on the following page of the newsletter

RALLY DAY PLANNED FOR SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

On September 10, we will kick off another year of Christian learning and mission with a Rally Day. Sunday Church School resumes from 9:30 to 10:30 AM with classes for all ages.

Immediately following the 10:45 AM service, we will gather in the fellowship hall for a lunch. The menu includes:

Chicken Salad on croissants

Hot Dogs on buns for the kids!

Pickles Chips Cookies

Punch / Coffee / Tea



This is also a wonderful opportunity to greet Pastor Larry Kemp, who is serving as our interim pastor for the next year. Reservation forms for the lunch are included in the church bulletin or you may call the church office.

Make sure to mark your calendar to kick off this year of learning and mission!

BLESSING OF BACKPACKS

As part of our Rally Day Celebration on September 10, we will bless student back packs. So bring your backpack with you to church!



FIRLU HAS HEARD...

-that as of July 25th our offerings receipts are \$90,581; last year they were \$102,036.

-that the church office will be closed Monday, September 4 in observance of Labor Day.

-that Preschool students and teachers will return for classes Tuesday, September 5. It will be a pleasure to see the children again—their enthusiasm and excitement are refreshing!

-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 will resume on September 17. Coordinators are needed for the breakfast. A sign-up calendar is available in the narthex. For additional information, please call the church office or speak to Sue Boggs who oversees the breakfast. Thank you!

-that the JAVA TABLE will be open in the fellowship hall on Sunday, September 17 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 Krunzsyinsky 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 October newsletter is Monday, September 18. Please be prompt. You may submit your articles to office@felchurch.org.

See you at worship,
FIRLU

ACOLYTE ROBE CARETAKER NEEDED!

The Worship and Music Committee is seeking a volunteer(s) willing to periodically make a check of the ACOLYTE ROBE closet, alerting Worship and Music of any needs and generally overseeing the condition of the robes. If you are willing to serve the church in this important task, please see Marvin Huls.



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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS: TEACHERS AND CLASSES



From September thru May, join us for
Sunday School
9:30 AM weekly!

Preschool & Kindergarten
First & Second Grade
Third & Fourth Grade
Fifth & Sixth Grade
Confirmation (Seventh & Eighth Grade)
High School
Adult

Erika Colonna
Sue Boggs & Kelly Vuick
Dianna Marusko
Megan Zobb
Pastor Larry Kemp
Molly Maga
Fellowship Hour

Come weekly and learn more about your faith!!

FIRST LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL “BACK TO SCHOOL” BUS NEEDS YOUR HELP

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



If you are willing to help, please remove a red apple suggestion sticker and purchase the item for the preschool. If you 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!

September

Listening Post

On Thursday evening, September 7, 2017 at 7:00 PM, Pastor Larry Kemp will conduct the first 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 be a town-hall style meeting with the opportunity to share concerns, ask questions and talk about your life in the Church. Please mark your calendar and plan to join us for prayer and conversation.

Pastor Larry Kemp

pastor125kemp2@verizon.net

412-302-6988



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.

Serving At Worship In September 2017

9/3 9/10 9/17 9/24
 Rally Day

ACOLYTES

Drew Erdman	Reese Woodley	Drew Erdman	Ailanthus Hanzel
Alyssa Tomb	Tanner DeTesta	Erika Ament	Erik Hanzel
Haley Tomb	Caris Rehak	Cade Cavanaugh	Bradley Schmidt
			Christopher Steel

LECTORS

Mark Barnhart	Sherry Menz	Jean Miller	Kim Nicassio
Bob Errett	Malcolm Sias	Cindy Black	Alex Byers

ASSISTING MINISTERS

Rebecca Brunetta	Pat Yost	Erik Hanzel	Rocco Marusko
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AV MINISTRY TEAM

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

Delivery

Betty Kraus	Helen Marie Flinner	Betty Mohney	Cheryl Lucas
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8:15 USHERS 10:45 USHERS ALTAR GUILD

Carolyn Hanzel - chief	Al Danilko - chief	Dianna Marusko - coordinator
William Poole	Merle Baker	Carol Baker
Liz Rowe	Terry Keffer	
	Dianna Marusko	

Happiness Is Singing And Ringing in the Church Choirs

HANDBELL CHOIR: Thursdays, 6:15 - 7:00 p.m.

We are in great need of two additional players. Previous experience is not required. Reading music, even minimally, is helpful but not required. (Ask Rocco Marusko!)

ADULT CHOIR: Thursdays, 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Voices welcome in all voice parts. Previous experience not required. Reading music, even minimally, is helpful but not required.

BENEFITS: Best seat in the house. Lots of laughs during rehearsals. Christmas Party at the Hulses, Pizza Party at Sunset Café. Choir robes that cover any wardrobe mistakes. First to go up for Communion. A great view of who is, or who is not, at worship! Free voice placement if you're not sure. Werther's Original Candy and/or Lemon Drops for nourishment during the service.

If interested, PLEASE complete the form below and return to usher, choir member, or Marvin Huls.

OR email: mhuls@setonhil.edu

Rehearsals begin Thursday, September 14.

----- I'm interested in exploring playing handbells.

----- I'm interested in singing.

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

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 and Kim von Schlichten.

Reformation Reflections Continued

Meals in the Luther household required a tremendous amount of organization. There could be anywhere up to 30 people to feed at any given meal. Katie took over the food procurement and production. There was no handy supermarket, restaurant or caterer available for a fast meal. She developed a fish pond, increased the gardens, set up a bakery and a brewery. Luther eventually bought her a farm that had been owned by the von Bora family. He maintained that his Katie made the best beer in all of Germany.

Luther has been quoted as saying, "In matters of money and finance, I trust my Katie's judgment. For all else I trust the Holy Spirit."

The Luther's had 6 children. Hans, named after Martin's father, Elizabeth who died in infancy, Magdalena, nicknamed Lena who died at the age of 13, Martin who died at the age of 33, Paul and Margarethe whose descendants can be traced to the present day.

At Lena's death Martin was heard to pray, "O God, I'd like to keep my daughter because I love her so much, but Thy will be done."

When Luther made his will, he bequeathed all his worldly goods to Katie, an extremely unusual thing for a man to do in his time and place. When he told Katie what he had done, she told him that it was not a very German thing to do.

At that time, a widow was usually left only 3 personal things at the death of her husband, a stool to sit on, a cloak to wear and a cane to walk with. All the rest of the estate was left to sons or brothers or other male relatives.

The Luther's had a good marriage and Martin's joy in his wife can be summed up in the quote, "O what a wife the Lord has given me!"

It is a pretty good guess that Luther lived such a long and prolific life because of the care he received from the woman he called The Morning Star of Wittenberg, Katherina von Bora Luther.

Reformation Reflections

When Martin Luther took his vows as a monk in the Augustinian Hermits in 1505 in Erfurt, Germany the last thing he imagined for himself was a wife and family.

But in 1525, the days of conflict and hullabaloo over the 95 Theses were over and he was securely settled into his life as a professor of theology at Wittenberg University. Monks and nuns continued to vacate the priories and abbeys and Martin was pressured to consider marriage. Then, along comes Katherina von Bora, a former nun who had renounced her calling. Several years earlier Luther had arranged for her escape from Nimschen Convent along with a number of her fellow-nuns. He and his colleagues had managed to find homes and/or husbands for all but Katherina. Martin and his colleague Nicolaus von Amsdorf had managed to find an older gentleman who was willing to take her off their hands. Katherina flatly refused and stated quite plainly that she would accept no less than the Reformer himself or his friend and fellow professor.

Luther talked this over with his father, Hans, who immediately approved. Hans wanted grandchildren. Not long after this visit Luther married Katherina von Bora.

Martin was a scholar and his mind, energies and time were spent teaching, preaching, writing and studying the Scriptures. At the end of his long working days, he often dropped exhausted into his unwashed bed, too tired to wash even himself.

It immediately became clear that Katherina von Bora was an organizer, a manager and a tireless worker. She took hold of the Black Cloister, which was originally built to house monks in the service of the university, and turned it into a home. Katie, as Luther called her, made sure that at the end of his working day neither the bed nor Luther were unwashed.

Luther's comment to a friend, "It is a shock to wake up in the morning and find pigtailed on the pillow next to me. God likes to perform miracles in order to mock and trick me and the world."

Continued



REFORMATION CHALLENGE

We thank you for your continued support of the Reformation Challenge.

We have September to go and then we start the last quarter of the challenge. Information on the last items to be collected will be in the October newsletter. ELCA 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 Circle Leader and Treasurer. Please prayerfully consider accepting one of these roles. Transition help will be available.

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.



September 2017

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

MEET OUR NEW SECRETARY

Mrs. Susan Woodcox began working in the church office July 5, 2017. Susan lives in Greensburg with her husband of 28 years and two cats. Susan loves to bake and is very happy to be here.

