



# 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  
Facebook [www.facebook.com/felchurch](http://www.facebook.com/felchurch)

 @FELchurch

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!

**PASTOR LARRY KEMP** may be reached either at the church office, by email at *pastor125kemp2@verizon.net* or by calling his mobile number at (412) 302-6988. If the concern is of an urgent nature, please call his mobile number.

**PLEASE** remember to turn your cell phones off before worship.

**THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD**  
**Celebrated on**  
**FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS**  
December 31, 2017  
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**

Announcements

**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.**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people,  
turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of  
your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your  
forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior  
and Lord. **Amen.**

*The congregation kneels. Silence is kept for reflection.*

**Most merciful God, we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

Hymn: “As with Gladness Men of Old”

#302

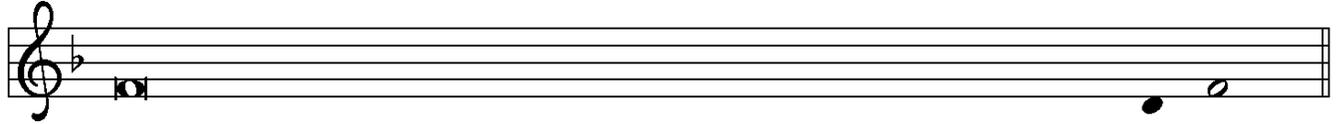
Greeting

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.**

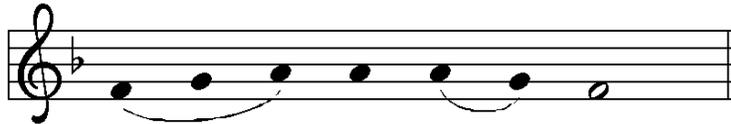
# Kyrie (“Lord Have Mercy”)



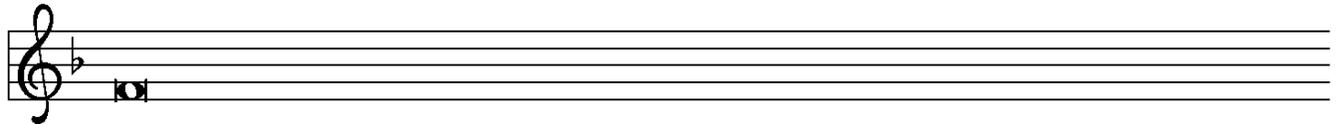
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



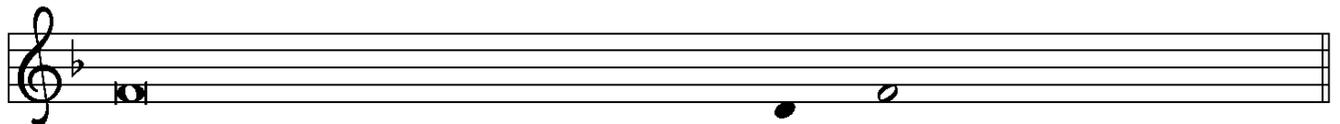
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



**Lord, have mer - cy.**



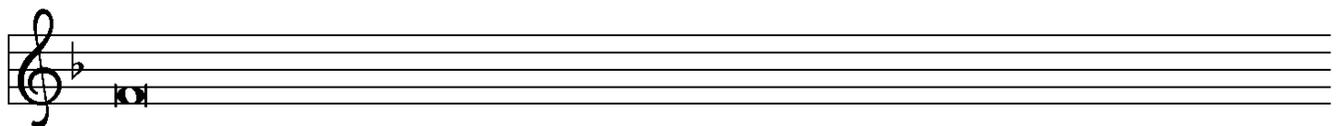
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



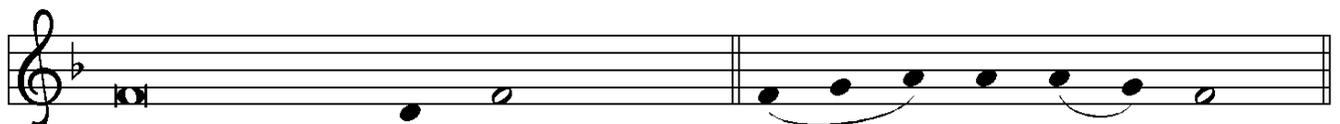
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



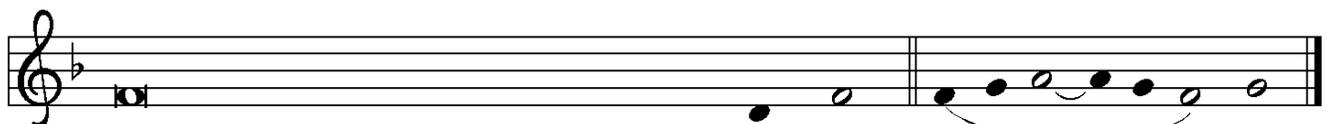
**Lord, have mer - cy.**



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - men.**

# Hymn of Praise: "This is the Feast"

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb

who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and

strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of



God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,

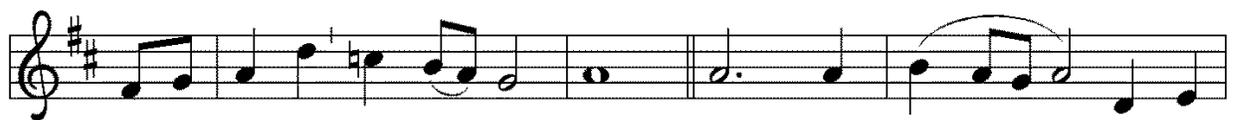


glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was



slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.



*Final refrain*

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

### Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray.

**Everlasting God, the radiance of all faithful people, you brought the nations to the brightness of your rising. Fill the world with your glory, and show yourself to all the world through him who is the true light and the bright morning star, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*The congregation may be seated.*

## WORD

### First Reading Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. <sup>2</sup>For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. <sup>3</sup>Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. <sup>4</sup>Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. <sup>5</sup>Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. <sup>6</sup>A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord. The word of the Lord

**R/Thanks be to God!**

### Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14 (*read responsively*)

<sup>1</sup>Give the king your jus- | tice, O God,  
and your righteousness to | the king's son;  
<sup>2</sup>**that he may rule your | people righteously  
and the | poor with justice;**  
<sup>3</sup>that the mountains may bring prosperity | to the people,  
and the | hills, in righteousness.  
<sup>4</sup>**Let him defend the needy a- | mong the people,  
rescue the poor, and crush | the oppressor.**  
<sup>5</sup>May he live as long as the sun and | moon endure,  
from one generation | to another.  
<sup>6</sup>**Let him come down like rain upon | the mown field,  
like showers that wa- | ter the earth.**  
<sup>7</sup>In his time may the | righteous flourish;

and let there be an abundance of peace  
till the moon shall <sup>1</sup> be no more.

**<sup>10</sup>May the kings of Tarshish and of the <sup>1</sup> isles pay tribute,  
and the kings of Sheba and Seba <sup>1</sup> offer gifts.**

**<sup>11</sup>May all kings bow <sup>1</sup> down before him,  
and all the nations <sup>1</sup> do him service.**

**<sup>12</sup>For the king delivers the poor who cry out <sup>1</sup> in distress,  
the oppressed, and those who <sup>1</sup> have no helper.**

**<sup>13</sup>He has compassion on the low- <sup>1</sup> ly and poor,  
and preserves the lives <sup>1</sup> of the needy.**

**<sup>14</sup>From oppression and violence he re- <sup>1</sup> deems their lives,  
and precious is their blood <sup>1</sup> in his sight.**

## Second Reading Ephesians 3:1-12

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles— <sup>2</sup>for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, <sup>3</sup>and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, <sup>4</sup>a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. <sup>5</sup>In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: <sup>6</sup>that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. <sup>7</sup>Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. <sup>8</sup>Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, <sup>9</sup>and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; <sup>10</sup>so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. <sup>11</sup>This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, <sup>12</sup>in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him. The Word of the Lord.

**R/Thanks be to God!**

## Gospel Acclamation

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## Gospel Matthew 2:1-12

The Holy Gospel According to St. Matthew

### **R/ Glory to you, O Lord.**

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’” Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.”

When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the

child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road. The Gospel of the Lord.

**R/ Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children's Message

Sermon

Hymn of the Day "Songs of Thankfulness and Praise" #310

Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again**

**in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,\*  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

### Prayers of the Church

*To stay current with our many continuing prayer needs, we will refresh our prayer list at the beginning of each new month by starting with a clean slate. 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.*

*To each petition, Lord in your mercy. **R/ Hear Our Prayer**  
At the conclusion, **R/ Amen.***

The Peace

# THE MEAL

## 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

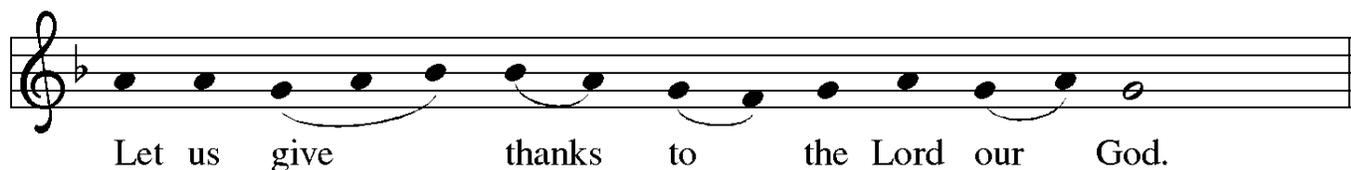
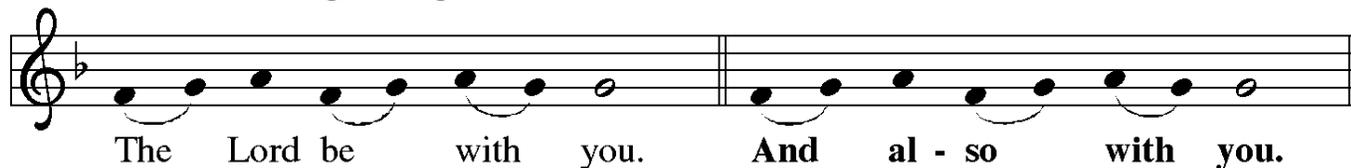
**Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing. Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gather the hopes and the dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer now. Grace our table with your presence, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.**

## Offertory Prayer (in unison)

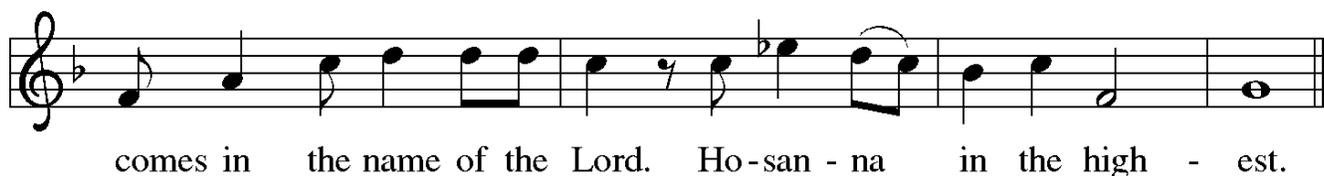
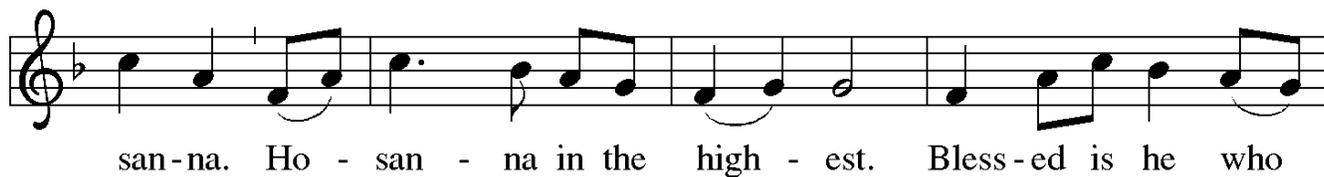
**Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things.**

**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



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 hymn:



## **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

You are indeed holy, O God, the fountain of all holiness...  
For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,  
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup...  
...to share with us the great and promised feast.

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit...  
...and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

**Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

Join our prayers with those of your servants...  
Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### Lord's Prayer

Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.

We give you thanks, almighty God,  
that you have refreshed us  
through the healing power of this gift of life.  
In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift,  
in faith toward you  
and in fervent love toward one another;  
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

# SENDING

## Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.  
**Amen.**

Hymn “Arise, Your Light Has Come!”

**#314**

## Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

# BLESSED TO BLESS

## SERVING TODAY:

**ACOLTYE** is Erika Ament

**LECTOR** is Mark Barnhart

**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 Betty Mohney.

**GREETERS** include Dianna Marusko - north door, Pastor Kemp - center, Al Danilko - south door.

## 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*

## **PRAYER CONCERNS:**

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER** this week Lisa, Brandie Saraceni, Robert Errett, Cheryl, Jane Ament, John Merrill, Christopher, Sue Baker, Jane, Rachel, Mark Henderson, Kathleen, Paul, Marina, Melissa Gaston, Brittney Carosella, Bev Todaro, Lynn Hochrein and Shirley Baker.

**THE ALTAR FLOWERS** are given in memory of Jane Yackovich by Greg and Lydia Yackovich.

**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:**

**CHURCH OFFICE** will be closed Monday January 1.

**COUNCIL** meets Tuesday, 7:00 PM.

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

**FELLOWSHIP** meets Wednesday, 7:00 PM.

**COUNCIL RETREAT** Saturday, 9 – 2.

**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. Thank you!

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

**CHOIRS** resume Thursday, January 11.

**2018 COUNCIL MEMBERS** will be installed January 14.

**ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING** January 21.

**2018 OFFERING ENVELOPES** are available in the fellowship hall. Please do not use your 2018 envelopes in 2017.

**ALTAR GUILD** is in dire need of LARGE juice cans. You may drop them off in the office.

**ALL OFFERINGS** received in the church office or postmarked on or before December 31<sup>st</sup> will be recorded as a current year offering.

**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 office.

**WEEKLY EMAILS:** If you are not receiving the weekly email blast, please call the office so we can add your name and email address to the list. We will not add anyone to the weekly email list unless they specifically request it even if we already have your email address.

**WELCA REFORMATION CHALLENGE:** 139 items have been collected to date for First Lutherans emergency food cupboard. Our goal is 500! We are asking for canned foods to be donated. The collection bins are in the Narthex and entrance to the educational building.

**NEW PROCEDURE:** To disarm or arm the security system, enter the security code and then press the **ENT** button located on the bottom right hand corner of the keypad.

**ALTAR FLOWERS:** First is in need of altar flowers for the following dates. If you are able to provide altar flowers for any of these dates, complete the form provided and return it with your flower fund contribution (make checks payable to First Lutheran) as soon as possible. Also, note on your check or envelope “flower fund”. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

**2018**

April 8,  
May 20  
June 17  
July 1, 29

**2018**

August 19, 26  
September 30  
October 28  
November 4  
December 30

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Enclosed is \$40.00 for altar flowers to be given on

(date)\_\_\_\_\_

in memory / honor of\_\_\_\_\_

by\_\_\_\_\_