

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

 @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.

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

January 28, 2018
8:15 AM & 10:45 AM

THE WORSHIP SERVICE

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: “Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

886

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.**

Prayer of the Day (Celebrate insert)
The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

The congregation may be seated.

WORD

First Reading Deuteronomy 18:15-20 (Celebrate insert)

R/Thanks be to God!

Psalm 111 (Celebrate insert)
(Read responsively, 8:15; sung, choir and congregation, 10:45)

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 8:1-13 (Celebrate insert)

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 Mark 1:21-28 (Celebrate insert)

R/ Glory to you, O Lord. R/ Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day “Healer of Our Every Ill” # 612

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of the Church

(Celebrate insert)

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.

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

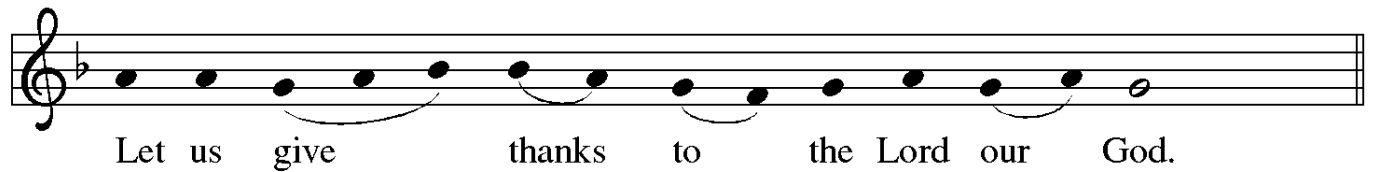
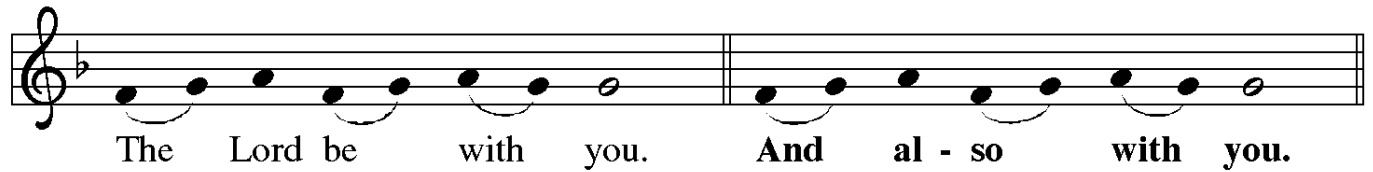
Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing. Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gather the hopes and the dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer now. Grace our table with your presence, and give us a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

Offertory Prayer (in unison)

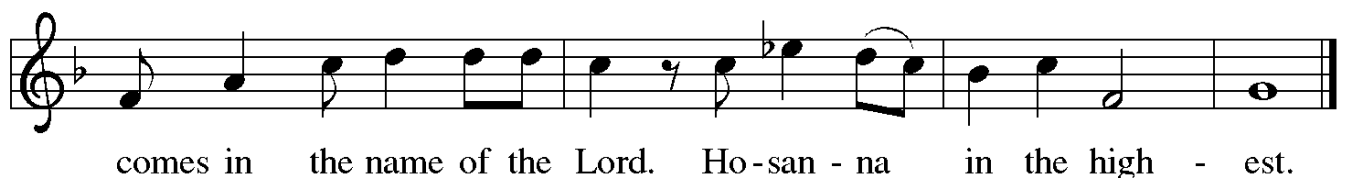
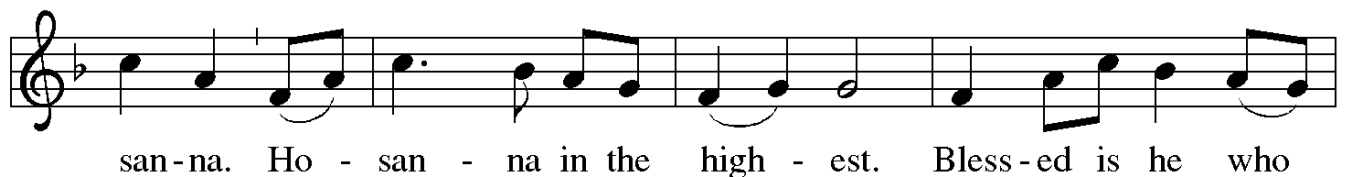
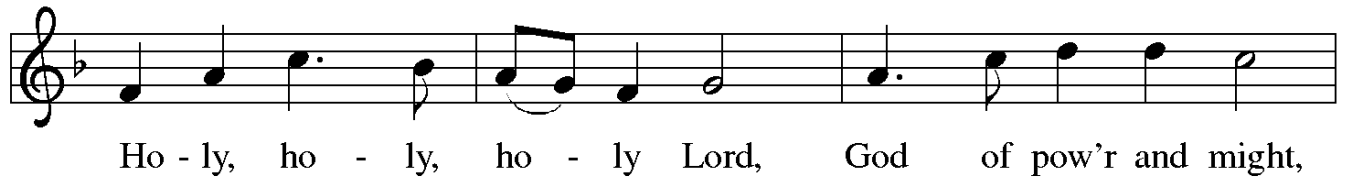
Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things.

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

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation...

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

With this bread and cup...

We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit...

Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours...

one God, 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 “Let the Whole Creation Cry”

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Dismissal

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

BLESSED TO BLESS

SERVING TODAY:

ACOLTYES are Drew Erdman and Jacob Julian

LECTORS are Kathy McMaster and Cindy Black

WORSHIP ASSISTANT is Suzy Flory

AUDIO/VISUAL (AV) MINISTRY is provided by Dwight Miller, Tim Irwin and Spencer Irwin. CD's will be delivered by Betty Mohny.

GREETERS include at 8:15 Suzy Flory - north door, Pastor Kemp - center, - south door; at 10:45 Suzy Flory - north door, Pastor Kemp - center, Charla Keffer - south door.

TODAY'S CHOIR ANTHEM

DAY BY DAY

Music by K. Lee Scott, Text by Richard of Chichester (1197-1253)

Day by day, dear Lord, of thee three things I pray; to see thee more clearly, love thee more dearly, follow thee more nearly, day by day.

Thanks be to thee, Lord Jesus, for all the benefits which thou hast won for us; for all the pains and insults which thou hast borne for us, O merciful Redeemer, Friend and Brother

PRAYER CONCERNS:

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER this week Lisa, Brandie Saraceni, Robert Errett, Bev Todaro, Lynn Hochrein, Dean Cichetti, Shirley, Pat Eidemiller, John Merrill, Matthew Carr, Jeanne Kiss, Bud, Fran, Richard, Bruce, Jennifer and family, Anne and family and Gail Curtis.

THE ALTAR FLOWERS are given in honor of family birthdays by Marvin and Shirley Huls.

THE CHANCEL FLOWERS are given in memory of Bill Kraus by the Betty Kraus family.

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.**

To keep current with those who are in the service, we will refresh our list at the beginning of each new year by starting with a clean slate. Please call the church office to have someone listed in the service prayers in 2018.

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:

CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST is available today and each Sunday, 9 - 10:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall.

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

CHOIRS rehearse Thursday night. Bell Choir meets at 6:15; adult choir meets at 7:00 PM.

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!

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING'S vision is to transform the time around the Super Bowl into the nation's largest celebration of giving and serving. Using the energy of the Super Bowl, it is our hope to mobilize our youth to care for people in their local communities who are hungry and those in need. Our young members of the congregation will be at the doors following both worship services on Sunday, February 4 with their soup kettles to collect your offerings. All of your offerings will be used for our Food Pantry and Food from the Heart ministries.

FRIENDSHIP SUNDAY: Sunday, February 11 lunch will be served in the Fellowship Hall after the 10:45 AM service, followed by ice skating at Kirk S. Nevin Arena at 1:30 PM. Admission is \$5.00. Guests are welcome!



BEGINNING THE CALL PROCESS: Pastor Sarah Lee-Faulkner, one of the Assistants to the Bishop, is going to be with us in worship on February 18, 2018. She will also be available during the continental breakfast at 9:30 AM between worship services for the purpose of discussing the call process and answering any questions you may have about the call process.

SPECIAL CONGREGATION MEETING NOTICE: On February 25, 2018, a special congregation meeting will be held following worship for the purpose of electing 6 members of the congregation to serve on the call committee for the call of the next pastor. Sunday School will be at 9:00 AM with only one worship service held that day at 10:00 AM with the meeting after worship service.

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

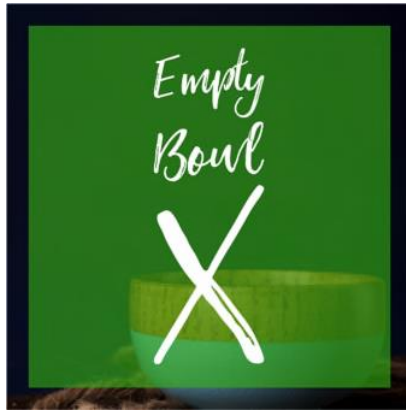
2018 OFFERING ENVELOPES are available in the fellowship hall. There are many boxes left. If you haven't already picked up yours, please do so!

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.

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.

Project to Benefit the Westmoreland County Food Bank
info@emptybowlwestmoreland.com



10th Annual Empty Bowl Event:

March 4th, 2018 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Hempfield High School Cafeteria

4345 State Route 136, Greensburg, PA 15601

A \$15.00 donation will get you:

- ✓ Your choice of over 1,000 handcrafted and unique bowls
- ✓ Soup from over 30 local restaurants
- ✓ Freshly baked bread provided by Panera and the CWCTC
- ✓ Entertainment throughout the day
- ✓ Cookies, coffee, water, and tea
- ✓ Chinese Auction
- ✓ Silent Auction
- ✓ 50/50 Raffle

****Special Offer for Students and Teachers: bring your school ID and get a \$5.00 discount on your Empty Bowl Event Ticket!****



Request for Donation of Auction Items

Empty Bowl is a National project that was the brain child of a potter who wanted to help people in need of food. With some assistance from his friend he gathered hand made bowls and created a one day event where he sold the bowls, along with soup and bread from local restaurants. The meager meal served as a reminder of how many families in their community might have empty bowls in their homes.

The project has taken many different forms across the country, but all events have raised money to feed the poor. Over the past nine years our local Empty Bowl project has raised over \$130,000 for the Westmoreland County Foodbank, using funds raised from the various activities held at our annual event.

Empty Bowl would like to request a donation from you to be used in the auctions during the annual event, held this year at Hempfield High School on March 4th, from 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM. The auction baskets are one of the more popular attractions at the event and bring in additional funds for the food bank. All items are welcome and all donors will be acknowledged in the program handed out to teach patron at the event. You are also welcome to create your own auction basket, if you'd like. Charitable donation letters for items valued over \$200.00 will be generated for your tax returns and sent by the Westmoreland County Food Bank after the completion of the Empty Bowl Event.

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.

April 8,
June 17

July 1, 29
August 19, 26

October 28
November 4
December 30

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

(date)_____

in memory / honor of_____

by_____