

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.

BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

January 7, 2018

8:15 AM & 10:45 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.

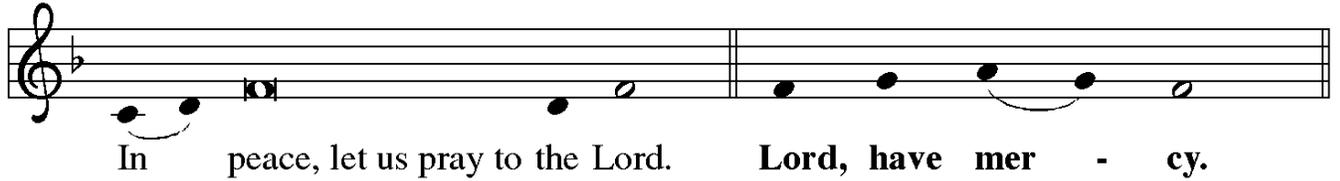
Hymn: “Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized”

#304

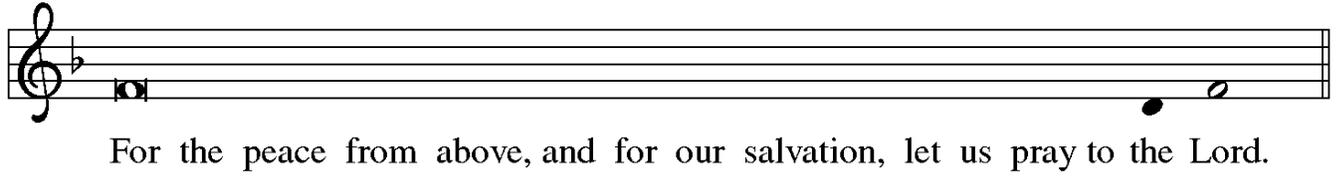
Greeting

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.**

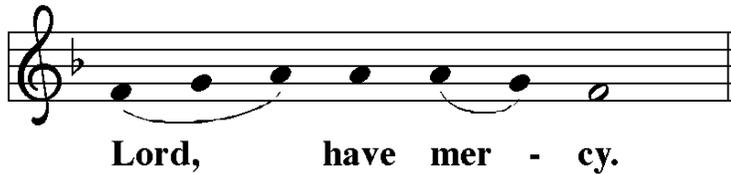
Kyrie (“Lord Have Mercy”)



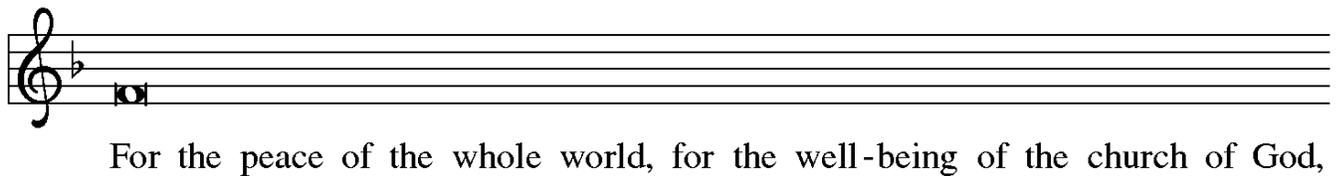
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



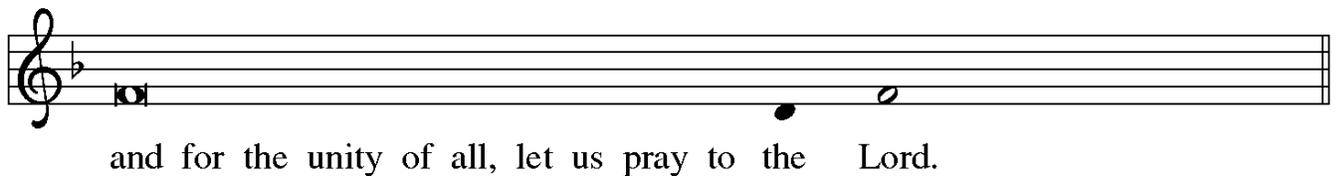
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



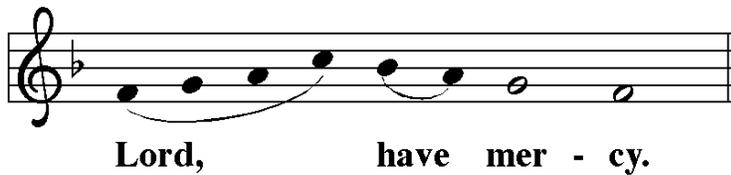
Lord, have mer - cy.



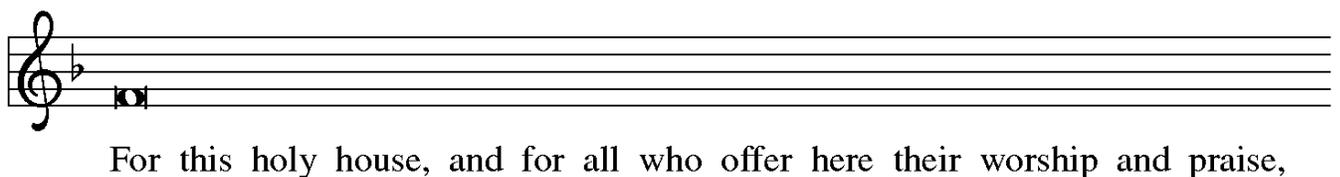
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



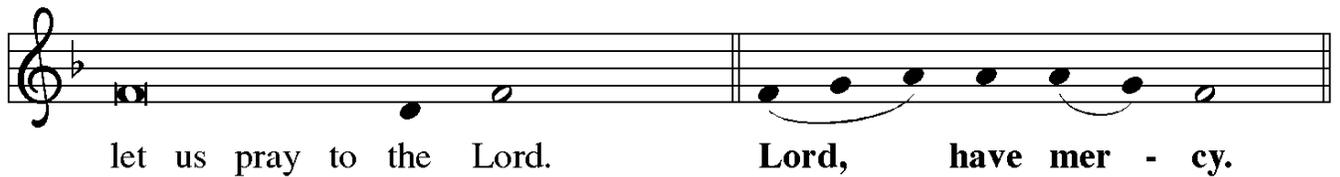
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



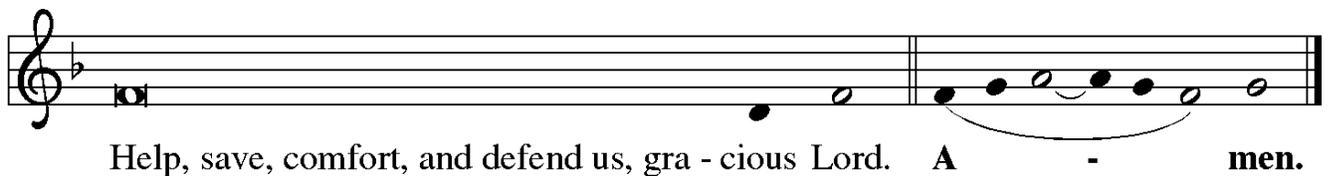
Lord, have mer - cy.



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"

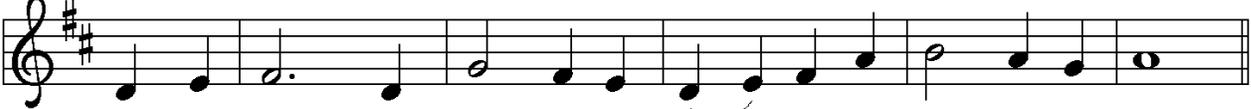
Refrain



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

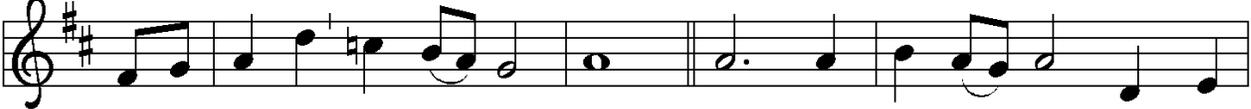


who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

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



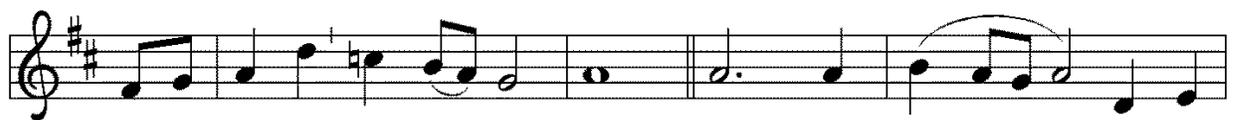
God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,



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



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.



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

(Celebrate insert)

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

Let us pray.

The congregation may be seated.

WORD

First Reading Genesis 1:1-5 (Celebrate insert)
R/Thanks be to God!

Psalm 29 (Celebrate insert)
(Read responsively, 8:15; sung, choir and congregation, 10:45)

Second Reading Acts 19:1-7 (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 1:4-11 (Celebrate insert)

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

Children's Message

Sermon

Hymn of the Day "Crashing Waters at Creation" # 455

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

(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

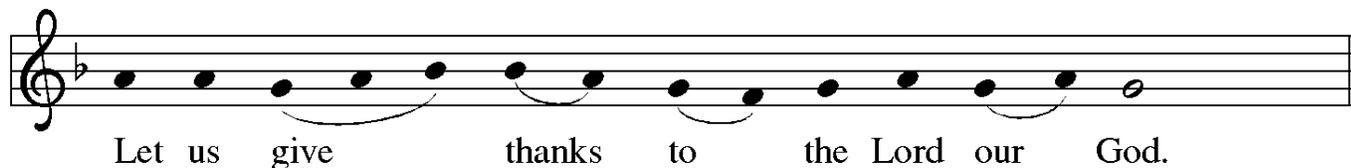
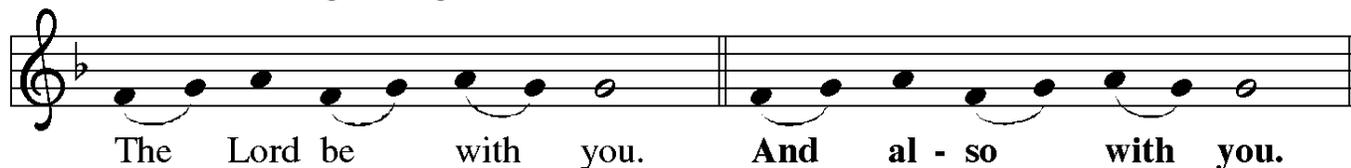
Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing. Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gather the hopes and the dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer now. Grace our table with your presence, and give us a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

Offertory Prayer (in unison)

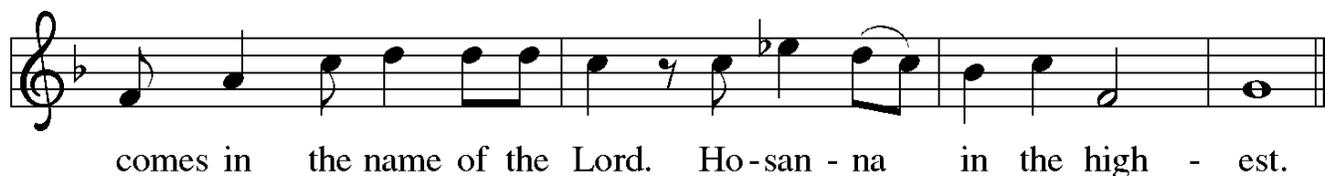
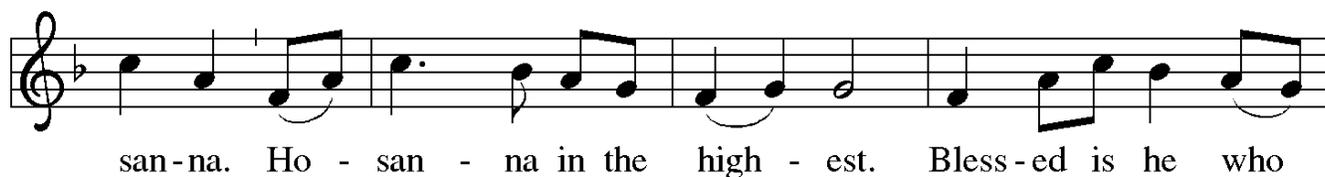
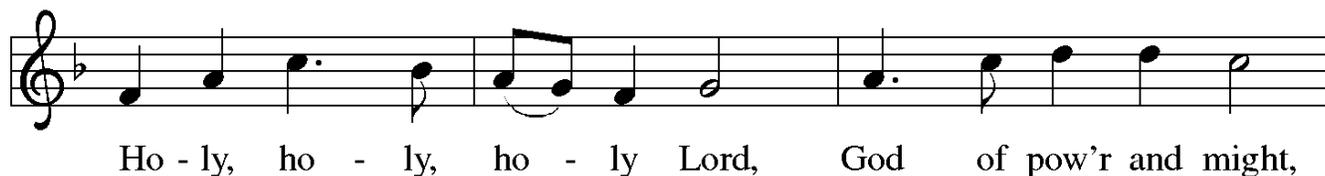
Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things.

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

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 “Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters”

445

Dismissal

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

BLESSED TO BLESS

SERVING TODAY:

ACOLTYES are Emma Armstrong and Erika Ament

LECTORS are Sherry Menz and Sunshine Keiser

WORSHIP ASSISTANT is Rocco Marusco

AUDIO/VISUAL (AV) MINISTRY is provided by Dennis Acita and Al Danilko. CD's will be delivered by Cheryl Lucas.

GREETERS include at 8:15 Rocco Marusco - north door, Pastor Kemp - center, - south door; at 10:45 Rocco Marusco - north door, Pastor Kemp - center, Cindy Black - south door.

SERVING IN JANUARY:

ALTAR GUILD for January includes Beverly Attenberger - coordinator, Rebecca Smith, and Janet Wineman.

USHERS for January include at 8:15 Tom Gockel - chief, Brian Erdman, and Jeff Barnhart; at 10:45 Lou Shutt - chief, Barry Attenberger, Jack Black, and Al Danilko.

PRAYER CONCERNS:

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER this week Lisa, Brandie Saraceni, Robert Errett, Bev Todaro, Lynn Hochrein, Dean Cichetti, Shirley and Pat Eidemiller.

THE ALTAR FLOWERS are given in honor of our parents by Bobbie and Sam Laciak.

THE CHANCEL FLOWERS are given in memory of Doris Myers by Charles Wright and Kay Yurcovich.

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:

TODAY'S ANTHEM is "*Brightest and Best*". You are invited to turn to hymn # 303 to follow the text.

PERSONNEL meets Tuesday, 6:00 PM.

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.

RUTH CIRCLE meets Thursday, 7:30 PM.

WORSHIP & MUSIC meets Thursday, 7:30 PM.

Westmoreland Children's Chorus is holding auditions for children in grades 2 through 8 on Tuesday, January 9, 2018. The 2018 Spring Season will run from Jan. 16 through Mar. 13 with 1 concert performance on Mar. 16, 2018. Interested? Contact Susan Mahady @ (724) 454-9378 or info@westmorelandchoralsociety.com.

2018 COUNCIL MEMBERS will be installed January 14.

ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING January 21.

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

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.

2018 OFFERING ENVELOPES are available in the fellowship hall.

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.

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*

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,

May 20

June 17

July 1, 29

August 19, 26

September 30

October 28

November 4

December 30

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

(date)_____

in memory / honor of_____

by_____