

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	
Rebecca Brunetta	President
Bob Errett	
Suzy Flory	
Jeanne Kiss	
Dianna Marusko	
Joan Orr	
Sue Ross	
Brandie Saraceni	Vice President
Amy Schultz	
Kim von Schlichten	
Megan Zobb	Secretary

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 15601
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**FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
GREENSBURG, PA**

PHONE 724-834-1457
FAX 724-834-1469

felchurch.org



www.facebook.com/felchurch



@FELchurch



APRIL 2018

A Month of Easter

On April 1st, we celebrate our Lord's resurrection with the sight of an empty tomb, and in the remaining weeks, we continue that celebration through the rest of the month. The risen Christ will appear to the disciples in the immediate weeks that follow. Then, as our month concludes, Jesus is identified as the Good Shepherd and the True Vine. Our month-long celebration reminds us of the life God gives us through Christ and the life we share together as God's people. As we move through April, please be sure to join us in that life in worship, fellowship, learning and service.



Be blessed,

Pastor Larry Kemp

**April 1 - EASTER SUNDAY! - 8:15 and 10:45 AM
(You are also invited to First Lutheran's Continental
Breakfast between worship services on Easter Sunday).**

2018 LENTEN CONGREGATIONAL PROJECT

We've bought pigs, built "Lenten Loos" and supplied first aid kits to communities around the world.

This year let's help folks in different countries build community vegetable gardens! With a plot of land and good soil, adding drought-resistant seeds and topping it off with tools and training, plenty of tomatoes, potatoes, cabbage, beans and other vegetables can be grown to go around. Extra produce can be sold and the profit shared by the members of the cooperative to provide a great combination of food and income.



It takes about \$200.00 to start a community vegetable garden. Throughout the 40 days of Lent, we will be gathering offerings in our homes and bringing those offerings to worship on Easter Sunday (Place your offering in an envelope with your name and "Community Vegetable Garden" on the outside of the envelope.). How many gardens can those in need grow through our gifts?



FIRLU HAS HEARD...

-that as of February 25th our offering receipts are \$25,450; last year they were \$23,022.

-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 April 22 between worship services. Fair Trade coffees, teas, and chocolates will be available for purchase.

-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 May newsletter is Monday, April 16th. Please be prompt. You may submit your articles to office@felchurch.org.

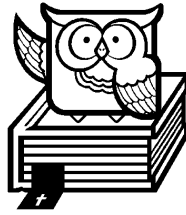
See you at worship,
FIRLU

April Library News

New materials in First Lutheran's library this month:

Luther the Reformer, The Story of the Man and His Career

(Second Edition) by James M. Kittelson/Hans H. Wiersma - For three decades James M. Kittelson's Luther biography has been the best for a general readership. Hans H. Wiersma's revision extends the book's usefulness for a new generation with its additions and changes. It provides the right balance of theology, politics, and social history, ever inviting us into the story of Luther. This is the right book at the right time for those seeking a faithful compass to Luther's life and times. It is the go-to biography for anyone made curious by the 500th anniversary of the Reformation.



New in our children's library:

Stolen Secrets by Jerry B. Jenkins/Chris Fabry - Bryce and Ashley Timberline are normal 13-year-old twins, except for one thing - they discover action-packed mystery wherever they go. Wanting to get to the bottom of any mystery, these twins find themselves on a nonstop search for truth. In this second book of the Red Rock Mysteries series, Bryce and Ashley wonder what their stepdad is hiding. As they discover more about his past, the twins fear all is not as it seems.

Your Magnificent Chooser by John Ortberg - Playful Rhymes and fanciful illustrations make this book a fun way to learn about choices, both big and small. It's sure to be a family favorite for years to come.

Through Your Eyes, My Child's Gift to Me by Ainsley Earhardt - Everyday joys and miracles are celebrated in this delightful, beautifully illustrated, whimsical story. Inspired by her own daughter's sense of wonder and surprise on a trip to the park, Ainsley's charming story invites us to see the world through the eyes of a child and to treasure each precious moment.



THRIVENT FINANCIAL ACTION TEAM

"The King will reply, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." Matthew 25:40 NIV

In family emergencies, Westmoreland County Children's Bureau is contacted to make arrangements for children from birth to 21 years of age. Often times these children are removed from their homes with only the clothes on their backs and little if any personal belongings, such as a favorite stuffed animal. In 2017, there were 348 children in foster care in Westmoreland, an increase of 174% above the normal number of 200.

Here are some ways you can help these children in need:

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------|
| April 15—May 15 | Children's Book Drive |
| July 1—August 5 | School supplies and backpacks |
| Nov. 1—Dec. 5 | Children's socks, underwear and toys |



SPRING CLUSTER MEETING at Salem Lutheran Church in Delmont April 21, 2018. Reservations due by April 18. Remember to bring your donations for *Ready Yourself Youth Ranch*.

Please mail or call reservations to:

Donna Earnest
945 Old Route 66
Greensburg, PA 15601
724-834-5849

Some of the items needed at *Ready Yourself Youth Ranch* are toilet paper (septic safe), paper towels, paper plates & plastic ware, liquid hand soap, bleach, body wash for bathing the horses, liquid laundry detergent, horse treats, peppermint candies, any used horse tack, bottled water, work gloves, horse riding helmets, Bibles, gift cards for Tractor Supply, Home Depot, Lowe's, etc.

SYNOD CONVENTION will be held at The Bishop Connare Center May 18 and 19, 2018. The theme for this year's convention is "WOMEN BLESSED BY GOD". To honor our 30th anniversary, a special dinner and event will be held on Friday at Giannilli's starting at 6:30 PM. In addition to the synodical business, there will be worship services and two workshops. Registration deadline is April 1st. Informational details and registration forms are in the church office in the WELCA mailbox.



Summer is just around the corner—time to start planning for summer camp! Visit www.lutherlyn.com or phone 724-865-2161.

Camp Blast is Saturday, May 12th, 11 AM—4:30 PM where you can sample all that Lutherlyn has to offer free of charge.

Week long summer Camps run from June 17 through August 3, 2018 for grades 4—6, 7—9 and 10—12. There are also Small Fry Days for grades 1—3 where children may attend one or multiple days.

Lutherlyn offers a coupon for first time Lutherlyn campers to help cover the cost of camp. Stop in the church office for a coupon.

First Lutheran offers Camperships. Register with Lutherlyn, then let the office know to send the campership.

LIVING LUTHERAN SUBSCRIPTIONS

LIVING LUTHERAN, the ELCA church magazine, is provided for every active home of the congregation (if desired) through the "Every Home Plan". The magazine is useful in assisting members in their daily walk of faith and provides information to our witness throughout the nation and world. We are in the process of updating our current list. If you would like your name added or removed from our list, please call the church office.

This plan provides a reduced rate of \$8.95 per subscription. If you wish to help defray the expense to the congregation, please use a gold pew envelope and mark your donation as such. Your gifts are much appreciated!

**COME STRIKE UP SOME FUN WITH
FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH!**

Sunday, April 15 after the 10:45 AM service at Main Bowling Center
513 South Main Street
Greensburg



Cost is \$5.00 and includes bowling, shoe rental and lunch. RSVP to church office no later than Sunday, April 8.

NAME_____

Number of Tickets_____ x \$5.00 = _____

The Westmoreland Museum of American Art, Seton Hill University, The Westmoreland Cultural Trust and Think Greensburg are sponsoring a Greensburg Arts Walk Saturday, April 14, 2018 11 AM—5 PM. This event will highlight the visual and performing arts in our community.



MARTIN LUTHER HYMN FESTIVAL. All are invited to celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation through Luther's hymns and music 7:00 PM Sunday, April 29, 2018 at Heinz Chapel, University of Pittsburgh.

Serving At First In April 2017

4/1

Emma Armstrong
Erika Ament

4/8

Emma Armstrong
Jacob Julian

4/15

ACOLYTES

Ailanthus Hanzel
Erik Hanzel
Tyler Miller

4/22

Reese Woodley
Mia Saraceni

4/29

Drew Erdman
Christopher Steel

4/1 Crucifers: Drew Erdman, Bradley Schmidt

Torch Bearers: Ailanthus Hanzel, Erik Hanzel, Alyssa Tomb, Haley Tomb

Bible Bearers: Reese Woodley, Cade Cavanaugh

ASSISTING MINISTERS

Pat Yost

Erik Hanzel

Suzy Flory

Dianna Marusko

Rebecca Brunetta

LECTORS

David von
Schlichten
Beth Giglio

Gail Armstrong
Megan Zobb

Sue Boggs
Teresa
Graziotto

Mark Barnhart
Jeanne
Christensen

Sherry Menz
Shirley Huls

AV MINISTRY TEAM

Dennis Acita
Al Danilko

Drew Erdman

Dwight Miller
Lexi Hahn
Scott Hahn

Liz Rowe
Tim Irwin
Spencer Irwin

Delivery

Cheryl Lucas

Betty
Mohney

Helen Marie
Flinner

Betty Mohney

Cheryl Lucas

8:15 USHERS

Dwight Miller -
chief
Kim Nicassio

10:45 USHERS

Dan Lucas - chief
Al Danilko
Terry Keffer
Merle Baker

ALTAR GUILD

Roberta Laciak
- coordinator
Mary Caldwell

What's Next?

The Call Process of the PA SW Synod

Now that the Call Committee has been elected, what's next?

Members of the Call Committee and Church Council are currently attending 4 sessions of the "Healthy Congregations" Workshop Series.

These workshops teach Systems theory, which is a new way of thinking about both the congregation and its leadership. They also help leadership gain a renewed sense of purpose and mission, be better leaders in the congregation and help move the congregation toward a better understanding of itself.

Call Committee members will also have the opportunity to participate in Call Committee training through the synod office.

The Council and Call Committee members will work together to complete the Congregational Mission Profile (this is a description of our congregation and the qualities we are looking for in a pastor) for First. Work on this Mission Profile will take several months. We need to take as much time as needed to assess what our congregation is about and what we want and need in a new Pastor.

Continued on next page

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.

PRESCHOOL NEWS

Happy Pig Week! Pig Week (March 4—10) was a joyful opportunity for our preschoolers to develop new skills and experience the joy and pride of showing their pigs at a Fair. Presenting their pigs to a panel of judges requires courage, conversation skills and communication skills at a higher level. Each little pig was a work of art with a personality that reflected the beauty and originality of each child.



Children in the three year old class designed and created beautiful piggy banks using Gator Aid bottles and foam. The children selected colors, thought of names and shared creative talents of their pigs. The Professional Pig Panel of judges included Pastor Larry, Miss Babs (Pascarella) and Miss Marie (Galatin) (docent at Westmoreland Museum of American Art).

The four year old class created paper mache pigs, selected a color and painted their pigs. And with the help of artist Ann Orr created a one of a kind pig that reflected the interests of each child. The Professional Pig Panel of judges included Miss Jean (Miller), Miss Joanie (Knobloch), Miss Susan (Woodcox) and Miss Brandie (Saraceni).

Thank you to all of our judges who made each child and each little pig feel special. We are very grateful to Ann Orr who has the unique ability of talking with each child and bringing to life their vision for each beautiful pig. Please admire Pig Week pictures in the entryway of the education building.

What's Next? Continued

Once the Mission Profile is finished and Council and Call Committee are comfortable with it, the final product will be sent to Pastor Sarah Lee-Faulkner, Assistant to the Bishop and head of Congregational Calls, for review and then sent to Bishop Kusserow.

Once the Bishop receives the Mission Profile, he can then begin to send names of prospective candidates to the Call Committee. Receiving names can take quite a while and possibly several years.

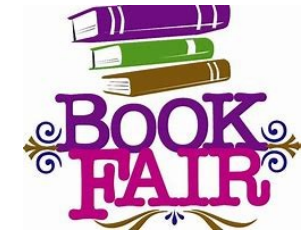
When the Call Committee enters into the interview process, the specifics of the potential candidates are all confidential.

The congregation will be kept apprised of where we are in the Call process. There may be some gaps between updates – these things do take time. Once we enter into the interview process, a new “What’s next” will be published for you.

We, as a congregation, need to be patient through this entire process and be grounded in prayer – our prayers are essential!

*Pray that the Holy Spirit will guide us, our Call Committee,
our Council Members and our Synod
in discerning who God will call
to serve as our next Pastor.*

APRIL 2018



Get Ready for Summer Reading with First Lutheran's Book Fair!

First Lutheran Preschool and Library are planning a "Get Ready for Summer Book Fair" on Sunday, April 29. Gently used books will be available with a variety of titles and age levels. Select books for yourself, for children, etc. A love of reading is a life long joy that keeps your brain healthy and happy. All books are free, however, we will welcome donations for Greensburg/Hempfield Library (A basket will be available.)

April 29th Sunday School will be an Intergenerational Event (crafts, stories, etc.)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:15 W&S 10:45 W&S 	2	3	4 FOOD/HEART	5	6	7
8 8:15 W&S 9:30 SCS 10:45 W&S	9	10	11 FOOD/HEART	12 6:15 Bell Choir 7:00 Choir	13	14 11—5 Greensburg Arts Walk
15 8:15 W&M 9:30 SCS 10:45 W&S BOWLING	16 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	17 6:30 Finance 7:00 Ch. Ed/Youth	18 FOOD/HEART	19 FOOD PANTRY 4:30 Preschool 6:15 Bell Choir 7:00 Choir	20	21 9-11 Healthy Congregations 9—12 WELCA Cluster 4 spring meeting @ Salem Lutheran Church,
22 8:15 W&S 9:30 SCS 10:45 W&S JAVA TABLE 9:30 Soc. Ministry	23	24	25 FOOD/HEART 6:00 Executive 6:30 Property	26 6:15 Bell Choir 7:00 Choir	27	28 9-11 Healthy Congregations
29 8:15 W&S 9:30 SCS 10:45 W&S Book Fair	30					