

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.

FIFTH SUNDAY of EASTER

April 29, 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

Preludes and Silent Prayer

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.

P: Alleluia! He is risen!

C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Processional

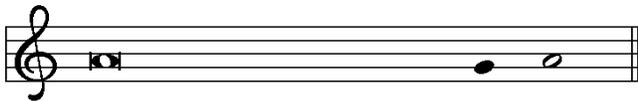
Hymn “Alleluia! Jesus is Risen”

377

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



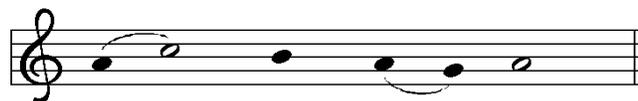
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



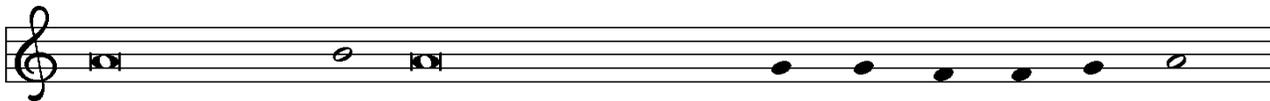
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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 wor-ship and praise,



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



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

This Is the Feast

Refrain

Assisting minister



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

All



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



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

Refrain



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



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



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

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



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

Prayer of the Day (printed on Celebrate insert)

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

Let us pray... **Amen.**

The congregation may be seated.

WORD

First Reading Acts 8:26-40 (Celebrate insert)

R/Thanks be to God!

Psalm 22:25-31 (Celebrate insert)

(Read responsively, 8:15; sung, choir and congregation, 10:45)

Second Reading 1 John 4:7-21 (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 John 15:1-8

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

Children's Message

Sermon

Hymn of the Day "Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love" # 708

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

(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

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

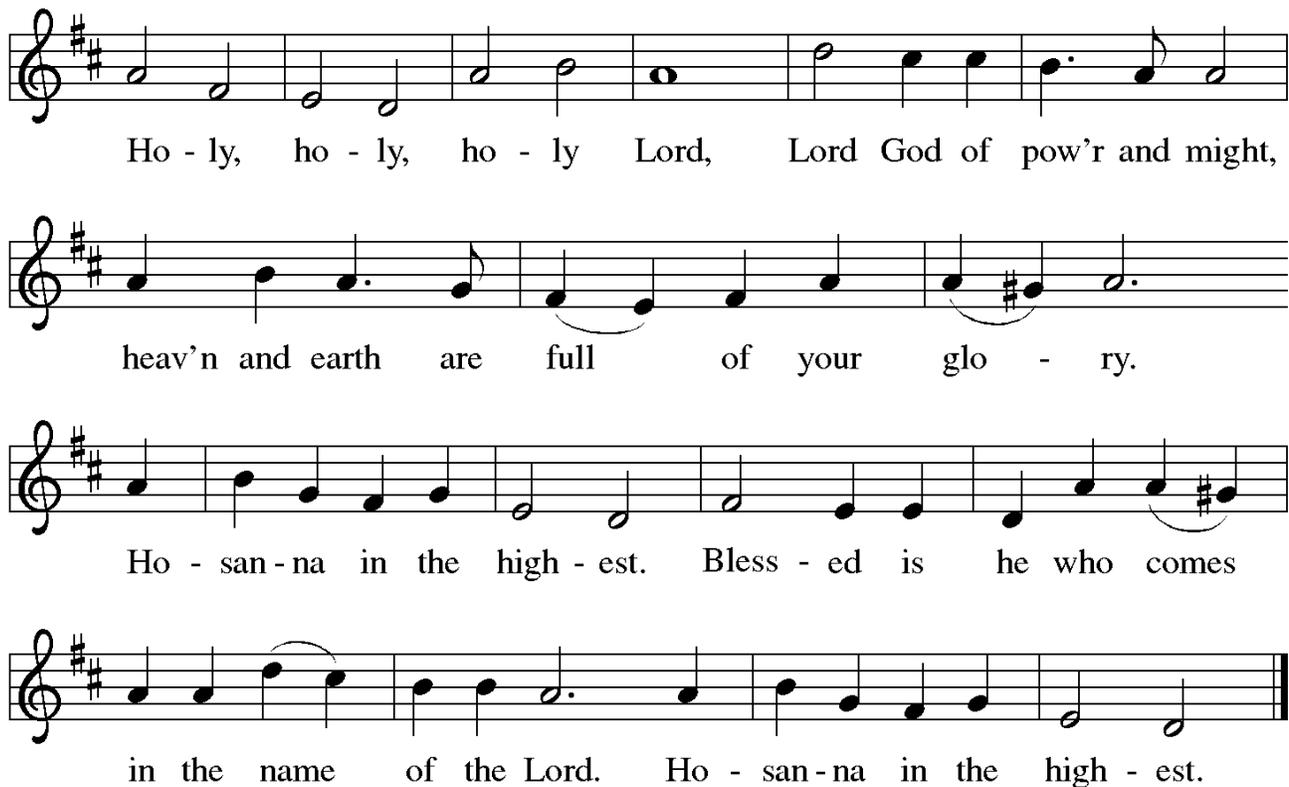
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The musical score consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words in bold. The first staff has two measures, the second and third have two measures each, and the fourth has one measure.

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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
 heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
 Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
 in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCHARISTIC 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

All who wish to receive the body and blood of Jesus for the forgiveness of their sins and the nourishment of their lives are welcome.

It is not necessary to be a member of First Lutheran to receive the sacrament.

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.

O God, we give you thanks
that you have set before us this feast,
the body and blood of your Son.

By your Spirit strengthen us to serve all in need
and to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry,
through 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 All Things Now Living”

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Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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BLESSED TO BLESS

SERVING TODAY:

ACOLYTES are Drew Erdman and Christopher Steel.

LECTORS are Sherry Menz and Shirley Huls.

WORSHIP ASSISTANT is Rebecca Brunetta.

AUDIO/VISUAL (AV) MINISTRY is provided by Liz Rowe, Tim Irwin, and Spencer Irwin. CD's will be delivered by Cheryl Lucas.

GREETERS include at 8:15 Rebecca Brunetta - north door, Pastor Larry - center, - south door; at 10:45 Rebecca Brunetta - north door, Pastor Larry - center, Charla Keffer - south door.

THANKS to the Handbell Choir for their ministry of music today!

PRAYER CONCERNS:

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER this week Lisa, Brandie, Robert, Dean, Jeanne, Suzy, Christopher, Lincoln, Samuel, Jan, Ed, Pat, Lynn, Shasta, Elaine, Annette, Gwen, Jimmy and the family of John Merrill.

THE ALTAR FLOWERS are given in honor of Dianna Marusko by Deanna, Erika, Nick and Owen.

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.**

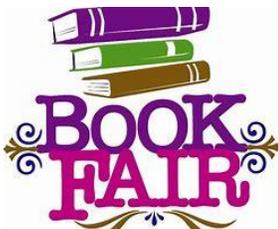
EXCELA HEALTH has changed their policy and will no longer notify the church of admissions. Please notify the pastor or call the church office if you or your loved one is hospitalized.

LOST AND FOUND - We have lost clothing and jewelry in the office. Please check with the secretaries if you've lost something!

ARE YOU AVAILABLE TO OFFER A RIDE to worship? Someone in the Jeanette area would like to know if someone might be willing to offer her a ride. If you are available and willing, please speak with pastor.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

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



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 lifelong 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.)

YOU ARE INVITED to a Choir Festival next Sunday at 4:00 PM at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral. Choirs from First Lutheran, Westminster Presbyterian, Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church, Immaculate Conception Catholic Church and the Murrysville Cantata Choir will each perform an anthem and join together for a combined anthem.

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.

CHOIR rehearses Thursday night. Adult choir meets at 7:00 PM

RUTH CIRCLE will meet Thursday May 3rd at 7:30 PM in the parlor.

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING Sunday, May 6, 2018 at both worship services to ratify the appointment of Brian Erdman to the Call Committee. On March 17, 2018 Council voted to approve Brian Erdman to serve on the Call Committee to fill a vacancy.

MAY 6th is the last day to turn in donations for the Lenten vegetable garden project.

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!

SWPA ASSEMBLY June 14, 15, 16, 2018 at Thiel College. Please let Pastor Kemp know if you would be willing to serve as a representative.

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.

ALTAR FLOWERS are still needed for July 1, August 19 and 26. Contact the church office if you would like to provide altar flowers for any of these dates. Cost is \$40.00

CHRIST'S CHURCH SALAD BAR (145 N. Main St. Greensburg) May 4, 2018 from 11:00 AM to 1:30 PM. Donation is \$8.00 and proceeds benefit Blackburn Center, Noah's Ark Child Center, Union Mission of Latrobe, Welcome Home Shelter and Westmoreland County Food Bank.

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL at St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church, Rt. 982, Youngstown Saturday, May 5, 2018 from 4 – 7 PM. Menu includes ham barbecue and hot dog sandwiches, baked beans, potato salad, strawberries, cake and ice cream. Proceeds will be used for church related projects.

What is Happening?

(an update on the call process)

Brian Erdman has accepted the chair position of the call committee, many thanks to him.

Committee members will attend a training session at the Synod office 05/14/18.

A survey is being prepared to help the committee assess the congregation's priorities in pastoral care.

Please help us by completing the survey which will be available in the bulletin.

*As always, keep the church, the process
and the committee in your prayers.*



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 office to pick up a coupon.

Register with Lutherlyn by May 1, 2018 for an early bird discount.

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