

FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
246 South Main Street  
Greensburg, Pennsylvania 15601-3183  
T: 724-834-1457  
F: 724-834-1469  
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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**FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
GREENSBURG, PA**

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

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**MAY 2018**



**Moving Forward with Glad and Generous Hearts**

*“Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.” Acts 2:43-47 (NRSV)*

I have been receiving “Thank You” letters from the agencies and organizations that have been beneficiaries of this congregation’s generosity. Along with the music in our worship life, I count that generosity as seen in the monetary gifts as well as the work that is done through Food from the Heart, the Food Bank and meeting emergency needs that are addressed on a day-to-day basis among the virtues of the congregation’s life. I remain deeply appreciative.

In that appreciation, I recall an extraordinary time in the life of the ancient Church, like that described above in the book of Acts. Like us, they found themselves in the wake of the Pentecost in an on-going community of faith with incredible challenges. The challenges today might be different, but the promise of God in Christ and the gift of the Spirit remain with us as well as the call to love and serve.

As we receive the promise, the gift and the call, may we move forward in ministry with glad and generous hearts.

Be blessed,  
Pastor Larry Kemp

# 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.

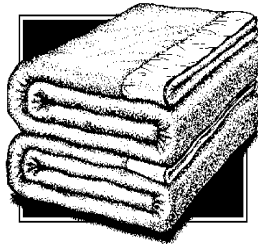
A survey is being prepared to help the committee assess the congregation's priorities in pastoral care.

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.*

## **MOTHER'S DAY GIFTS...BLANKETS / MALARIA NETS**

Again this Mother's Day (May 13) our Social Ministry Team is suggesting two wonderful ways to honor your/any mother in your life. Our brothers and sisters, in the Third World, may not know it's a special occasion in America. They may well be experiencing just another day struggling against poverty, hunger, weather calamities, or even malaria.



Each donation, in \$10.00 increments, will purchase either a blanket or malaria net. What a wonderful way to honor Mom and reveal your love for her and all mothers.

A member of the Social Ministry Activating Team will be in the education building foyer between worship services on Sunday, May 6th and 13th for you to make your gifts. You may also make gifts during the week through the church office.



## **FIRLU HAS HEARD...**

-that as of March 25th our offering receipts are \$11,764; last year they were 13,216.

-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 May 13 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 JUNE newsletter is Wednesday, May 16th. Please be prompt. You may submit your articles to [office@felchurch.org](mailto:office@felchurch.org).

**WEEKLY EMAILS:** Are you receiving the weekly email blasts? If not, please call the office so we can add your name 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.



Summer is just around the corner—time to start planning for summer camp! Visit [www.lutherlyn.com](http://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.

### CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

Terry Keffer accepted a certificate of appreciation from the Westmoreland County Food Bank Staff and Board of Directors for First Evangelical Lutheran Church Food Pantry. The certificate states *“Through much dedication and commitment in 2017, 104,402 pounds of food were distributed which provided 87,002 meals to those in need in your community. We Couldn’t Do It Without You!”*



Many thanks to Terry and Charla Keffer for their dedication!

## CONFIRMATION/AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM MAY 20



During our worship services on May 20th, three of those whom God has claimed in the waters of Baptism will mark a milestone of God’s grace in their lives as they **Affirm their Baptisms**.

In the unique experience that each of them has had in God’s love since the Baptismal waters splashed over them, they will proclaim to us that they have captured a vision of that grace, and that they look forward to the unfolding of that grace in the rest of their lives.

We will **confirm** to them that their quest has been and always will be one in which we are prayerfully engaged, enthusiastically rejoicing, and in accordance with God’s promise we will never give up on.

Thanks be to God for his life-giving mercy that he has poured into the lives of **Ailanthus Hanzel, Jacob Julian and Bradley Schmidt** and all who bear his name.

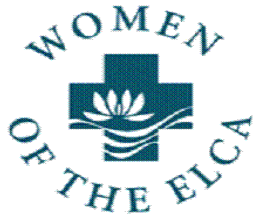
A confirmand breakfast (sausage, scrambled eggs, hash browns, pastries, fruit and orange juice) will be served between services.

Please complete the information below and return to the office or call the office at 724-834-1457 if you plan to attend the Confirmand Breakfast so the Fellowship Committee can better plan for the meal.

\*\*\*\*\*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Number attending Confirmand Breakfast\_\_\_\_\_



**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". Donations for *Ready Yourself Youth Ranch* will be taken to the convention.

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.

The cleaning buckets are on their way to those in need. Again, our thanks to Charla and Terry Keffer for taking the 10 heavy buckets to the distribution center.

Ruth Circle will meet on Thursday May 3rd at 7:30 PM in the parlor. This will be the last meeting until September. We wish all a safe and enjoyable summer.

**SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**  
Sunday, May 6, 2018 to ratify the appointment of Brian Erdman to the call committee.



## SUMMER FOOD DRIVE

During the summer months, the Social Ministry Activation Team will be collecting nonperishable items for our Emergency Food Cupboard. These items will be used to assist many individuals and families in our community.

June is "Protein Month". Suggested items are:

- Peanut Butter
- Canned meats (tuna, chicken, etc.)
- Beans



July is "Carb Month". Suggested items are:

- Pasta / pasta sauce
- Pouch / Box sides (pasta/rice/potato/stuffing, etc.)
- Mac & Cheese
- Crackers (saltines, etc.)

August is "Canned Food Month". Items especially needed are:

- Soup
- Fruit
- Canned pasta (spaghettios, etc.)

A box is located in the education building foyer for your donations.

Please **check the expiration dates** before donating, as we cannot distribute expired items in the Emergency Food bags.

**Thank you!**

**PRESCHOOL NEWS**

I **AM SPECIAL**, words that every child needs to know! This is the message that Mrs. Kathy Senic presented to our preschoolers in a wonderful, energetic and funny way. Miss Kathy is a presenter from Saint Vincent College Prevention Projects. She visited with her guitar, a book, Mrs. Beezley (a penguin puppet) and a bag full of “special” toys. Miss Kathy played her guitar, sang and danced, all with fabulous facial expressions. Each child pulled a “special” stuffed animal out of Mrs. Beezley’s large bag. We discussed what makes each animal special. Then, with song, we discussed what makes each child unique and special. This was a beautiful life lesson. After all, aren’t we all “special” and beloved by God?

Preschooler’s had pizza and cookies donated by Sam’s Club.

Mr. Marvin Huls gave a demonstration of the church organ to 18 energized students!

**PRESCHOOL GRADUATION  
THURSDAY, MAY 24**



Preschool Graduation will be Thursday, May 24th at 6:30 PM. You are invited and encouraged to be a part of this End of the Year Celebration.

Our theatrical performance will be “Noah’s Ark”. Songs, moving up certificates for the three year olds, and diplomas for the four year olds will all be part of our celebration.

A reception with cake and punch will follow in the fellowship hall. If you plan on attending the reception after graduation, please call the church office so we can plan accordingly with seating and cake.

5/6

5/13

5/20

5/27

**ACOLYTES**

Emma Armstrong <b>A</b>	? <b>A &amp; C</b>	Reese Woodley <b>A</b>	Drew Erdman <b>A</b>
Reese Woodley <b>C</b>	Ailanthus Hanzel <b>T</b>	Drew Erdman <b>T</b>	Ailanthus Hanzel <b>C</b>
Emma Armstrong <b>T</b>	Erik Hanzel <b>T</b>	? <b>T</b>	Reese Woodley <b>T</b>
Ailanthus Hanzel <b>T</b>	Reese Woodley <b>B</b>	Reese Woodley <b>B</b>	? <b>T</b>
Drew Erdman <b>B</b>	Erika Ament <b>A</b>	Erika Ament <b>A</b>	Erik Hanzel <b>B</b>
Mia Saraceni <b>A</b>	Bradley Schmidt <b>C</b>	Tyler Miller <b>C</b>	Mia Saraceni <b>A</b>
? <b>C</b>	Mia Saraceni <b>T</b>	Alyssa Tomb <b>T</b>	Tyler Miller <b>C</b>
Alyssa Tomb <b>T</b>	Tyler Miller <b>T</b>	Haley Tomb <b>T</b>	Bradley Schmidt <b>T</b>
Haley Tomb <b>T</b>	Christopher Steel <b>B</b>	Cade Cavanaugh <b>B</b>	Christopher Steel <b>T</b>
Cade Cavanaugh <b>B</b>			Cade Cavanaugh <b>B</b>

A = Acolyte; ; C = Crucifer; T - Torch Bearer; B = Bible Bearer

**ASSISTING MINISTERS**

Rocco Marusko	Pat Yost	Erik Hanzel	Suzu Flory
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**LECTORS**

David von Schlichten	Kim Nicassio	Kathy McMaster	David von Schlichten
Rick Druschel	Sunshine Keiser	Bob Errett	Malcolm Sias

**AV MINISTRY TEAM**

Dennis Acita	Drew Erdman	Dwight Miller	Liz Rowe
Al Danilko		Lexi Hahn	Tim Irwin
		Scott Hahn	Spencer Irwin

**Delivery**

Betty Mohney	Helen Marie Flinner	Betty Mohney	Cheryl Lucas
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**8:15 USHERS**

Kip Boggs - chief  
Sue Boggs  
Noah Boggs

**10:45 USHERS**

Lou Shutt - chief  
Dianna Marusko  
Al Danilko

**ALTAR GUILD**

Kim Woodley  
- coordinator  
Nancy Smith

**NO.....Marvin did NOT play**

**PETER COTTONTAIL on Easter!!**



One of the organ selections played on Easter Sunday was a set of variations on *THIS LITTLE GOSPEL LIGHT OF MINE*. A NUMBER OF PEOPLE ASKED IF I HAD PLAYED *PETER COTTONTAIL*. On examining the first 10 notes of the two pieces, I found to my surprise that 7 of them are identical.

SO.....if you heard Peter Cottontail, be assured that it was actually *THIS LITTLE GOSPEL LIGHT OF MINE*. Thanks to those who were listening closely!

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL  
FIRST LUTHERAN AND ZIONS LUTHERAN CHURCHES!**

**“Hero Central”**

**Discover Your Strength in God**

**July 9 - 12, 2017**

**6:30 – 8:00 PM**

**At Zions Lutheran Church**

**Do Good! Seek Peace & Go After It!**

Psalm 34 :14



After a great combined Bible School with our friends in Christ of Zions, we’re combining with them again this year. Zions Lutheran will be the location. Also, we are having our VBS in the evening in hopes that people of all ages will be able to take part. Sections for kids and adults! Registration forms will soon be available at both churches. Registrations are helpful, but not necessary. Invite friends! And as usual.....there is no cost to participants!

**New in our Children's library:** continued

***Whistle-Stop West*** by Arletta Richardson – Book Two in the Beyond the Orphan Train Series for young teens. Nine-year old Ethan Cooper has managed to keep his family together for a year in a Pennsylvania orphanage. Now he and his siblings are boarding a train headed west and he can’t help but worry. Mr. and Mrs. Rush in Nebraska have agreed to adopt all four Cooper children, but what if they change their minds?

Based on the story of a real family, this second book in the historical Beyond the Orphan Train series reminds us that God never leaves us, no matter how far we journey to find home.

***Not a Cloud in the Sky*** by Renita Boyle and Honor Ayres – This is the story of God, an ark, a boatload of animals, and a man called Noah who stood out in a crowd. This is the story of Noah’s ark as you have never heard it before! This whimsical and colorfully illustrated book is a delight for young children.

***Hush, Little One*** by Anita Reith Stohs – A lullaby for God’s Children. A beautifully illustrated lullaby to share with your little ones! “May Jesus, who so loves you, keep you safe in His protecting arms, This night...and your whole life long.”

**PLEASE CHECK YOUR SHELVES** at home to see if you may have a misplaced book or DVD that belongs to First Lutheran’s Library or Children’s Library. In order to maintain our fine selection of materials for everyone to enjoy, we need to retrieve any unreturned books or DVD’s that may have been forgotten. Reminder notices are being sent out for your convenience. Please place any materials you are returning in the “Return Books Here” tray in the Library or in the Library mailbox in the church office. Thank you.

## May Library News



### **New materials in First Lutheran's library this month:**

With so many available books and DVD's in First Lutheran's library, you can add to your family's Christian Education throughout the summer months, as well as all year long! Be sure to visit our library on the second floor of the Christian Education building and "check something out".

### **New in our Library this month:**

*One Hope*, Re-Membering the Body of Christ - A rich ecumenical resource designed to help Catholic and Lutheran communities mark the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation. By gathering together to reflect on and discuss its contents, Christians will foster the church's unity on a grassroots level and grow in their awareness of the ways that unity already exists. The essays in *One Hope* are the product of an intense collaborative process by six gifted scholars and pastoral leaders, three Lutheran and three Catholic.

### **New in our Children's library:**

*The Green Tent Mystery* by Paul Hutchens - Book 19 in the Sugar Creek Gang series for 8 - 10 year olds. On a dark summer night, the Sugar Creek Gang stumbles across a woman digging a hole in an abandoned cemetery. Investigate with the gang as they get to the bottom of the mysterious holes that keep appearing in the fields. Discover the important role that Bill Collins' little sister Charlotte Ann plays in solving the mystery. In the end, you'll discover with the gang that "all things work together for good to them that love God."

## 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 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 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.

# MAY 2018



## SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE BEGINS JUNE 3

Beginning the first Sunday in June, the "Summer Worship Schedule" will begin, with worship at 8:15 and 10:00 AM.

There will be no Sunday Church School during the summer months. SCS will conclude the school year with an intergenerational event on Sunday, May 20, and resume September 9 with Rally Recreation Day. Regular worship schedule will resume September 9. Continental Breakfast will be served until May 20 and discontinued until September as well.

**So...don't forget...starting  
June 3... worship at 8:15 and  
10:00 AM.**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 7:00 Council	2 FOOD/HEART 7:00 Fellowship	3 7:00 Choir 7:30 Ruth Circle	4	5
6 8:15 W&S 9:30 SCS 10:45 W&S Congregation Meeting	7	8 6:00 Personnel	9 FOOD/HEART	10 ASCENSION 	11	12
13 8:15 W&M 9:30 SCS 10:45 W&S Ascension of Our Lord JAVA TABLE 9:30 Soc. Ministry	14 <b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b>	15 6:30 Finance 7:00 Ch. Ed/Youth	16 FOOD/HEART	17 FOOD PANTRY	18 SWPA WELCA Convention	19 SWPA WELCA Convention
 8:15 W&S 9:30 SCS 10:45 W&S Confirmation	21	22	23 FOOD/HEART	24 6:30 Preschool graduation	25	26
27 8:15 W&S 10:00 W&S The Holy Trinity	28	29 NEWSLETTER FOLDING	30 FOOD/HEART 6:00 Executive 6:30 Property	31		