

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



www.facebook.com/felchurch

Larry Kemp

Interim Pastor

Marvin J. Huls

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

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.

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 2, 2018

8:15 AM & 10:00 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.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

The assembly kneels. Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God,

have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

The presiding minister announces God's forgiveness with these or similar words.

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.**

The assembly stands. The service continues with gathering song.

Hymn “For the Beauty of the Earth”

879

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.

Hymn of Praise: "Glory Be to God"



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.



For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.

Prayer of the Day

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

Let us pray

O God our strength, without you we are weak and wayward creatures. Protect us from all dangers that attack us from the outside, and cleanse us from all evil that arises from within ourselves, that we may be preserved through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen

The congregation may be seated.

WORD

First Reading Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the LORD, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. ²You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the LORD your God with which I am charging you. ⁶You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, “Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!” ⁷For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is whenever we call to him? ⁸And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today?

⁹ But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children’s children

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Psalm 15

*(Read responsively: Lector / **Congregation**)*

¹LORD, who may dwell in your | tabernacle?

Who may abide upon your | holy hill?

²**Those who lead a blameless life and do | what is right,
who speak the truth | from their heart;**

³they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil | to their friends;
they do not cast discredit up- | on a neighbor.

⁴**In their sight the wicked are rejected,
but they honor those who | fear the LORD.**

**They have sworn upon their health
and do not take | back their word.**

⁵They do not give their money in hope of gain,
nor do they take bribes a- | gainst the innocent.

Those who do these things shall never be | overthrown.

Second Reading James 1:17-27

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. ¹⁸In fulfilment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

¹⁹You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; ²⁰for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. ²¹Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank

growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

²² But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. ²³ For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; ²⁴ for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. ²⁵ But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

²⁶ If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. ²⁷ Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

The first line of musical notation is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It begins with a whole rest, followed by a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a half note B4, a quarter note C5, a quarter note B4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note G4, and a quarter note F#4.



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

The second line of musical notation is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It begins with a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, a quarter note C5, a quarter note B4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note G4, a half note F#4, a half note E4, a quarter note D4, and a whole note C4.

Gospel Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

R/ Glory to you, O Lord.

Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, ²they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. ³(For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; ⁴and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) ⁵So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, ‘Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?’ ⁶He said to them, ‘Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

“This people honours me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me;
⁷in vain do they worship me,
teaching human precepts as doctrines.”

⁸You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.’

¹⁴Then he called the crowd again and said to them, ‘Listen to me, all of you, and understand: ¹⁵there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.’ ²¹For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, ²²adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. ²³All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.’

The Gospel of the Lord

R/ Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day “This is My Father’s World”

824

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

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.

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

Each portion of the prayers ends with these or similar words:

. . . let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

The presiding minister concludes the prayers with these or similar words.

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

The Peace

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say Peace be with you or similar words.

The assembly is seated.

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)

Let us pray.

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

**Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts:
our selves, 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 image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff has two measures, the second and third have two measures each, and the fourth has two measures. The notes are simple, using quarter and eighth notes with stems.

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

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.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff has two measures, the second and third have two measures each, and the fourth has two measures. The notes are simple, using quarter and eighth notes with stems.

Eucharistic Prayer X (*ELW*)

Eucharistic Prayer IX *ELW*

Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God.

The universe declares your praise: ...

... with every breath.

We praise you, O God.

Generations bless your faithfulness: ...

...into the future.

We bless you, O God.

We give you thanks for your dear Son:...

...with us now.

We thank you, O God.

In the night in which he was betrayed,...

...we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

We pray for the gift of your Spirit: ...

... without end.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

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

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

The assembly may be seated.

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

and each person may respond Amen.

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his grace. **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 God of steadfastness and encouragement
grant you to live in harmony with one another,
in accordance with Christ Jesus.

Amen.

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The God of all grace + bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Hymn “Canticle of the Turning”

723

Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

In the Lord’s Prayer we pray:

“Forgive us our trespasses as we
forgive those who trespass against us.”

BLESSED TO BLESS

SERVING TODAY:

ACOLYTES are Reese Woodley and Mia Saraceni.

LECTORS are Kim Nicassio and Rich Druschel.

WORSHIP ASSISTANT is Rebecca Brunetta.

AUDIO/VISUAL (AV) MINISTRY is provided by Al Danilko.

GREETERS include at 8:15 Rebecca Brunetta - north door, Pastor Larry Kemp - center, Clint McMaster - south door; at 10:00 Rebecca Brunetta - north door, Pastor Larry Kemp - center, Suzy Flory - south door.

SERVING IN SEPTEMBER:

ALTAR GUILD for September includes Dianna Marusko – coordinator, and Carol Baker

USHERS for September includes at 8:15 Kip Boggs – chief, Noah Boggs and Sue Boggs; at 10:00/10:45 Lou Shutt - chief, Al Danilko, Malcom Sias and Merle Baker.

PRAYER CONCERNS:

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER this week Lisa, Brandie, Ed, Pat, Lynn, Sue, Babs, Jim, Mary Lou, Dorothy, Diana, Mark, Lori, Denise, Christopher, Jim, Marshall and Debra.

THE ALTAR FLOWERS are given in memory of Ralph G. and Jean Steel by Suzy and Tom Flory and sons.

THE CHANCEL FLOWERS are given in memory of mother, Pauline Nelson by Mr. and Mrs. Jerry L. Moyer.

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.

NEW WORSHIP OPPORTUNITY AT FIRST

We are currently offering a worship service at 6 PM on Wednesday evenings. The service is a spoken worship service with Holy Communion. It is not intended to replace either of the Sunday worship services and is offered either as an additional worship opportunity for those who may not be able to worship with us on Sunday or those who might like an additional opportunity to worship during the middle of the week.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

OFFICE CLOSED Monday, September 3rd in observance of Labor Day.

COUNCIL meets Tuesday, 7:00 PM.

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

WORSHIP WORD and SACRAMENT Wednesday, 6:00 PM

FELLOWSHIP meets Wednesday, 7:00 PM.



On September 9, we will kick off another year of Christian learning and mission with a Rally Day. Sunday Church School resumes from 9:30 to 10:30 AM with classes for all ages.

Immediately following the 10:45 AM service, we will gather in the fellowship hall for lunch. Remember to turn in your reservation for lunch!

BLESSING OF BACKPACKS: As part of our Rally Day Celebration on September 9, we will bless student backpacks. So bring your backpack with you to church!

RUTH CIRCLE will meet Thursday, September 13 at 7:30 PM in the church parlor. This will be an organizational meeting so plan to join us and help plan the year.

FAIR TRADE will begin September 16.

SOCIAL MINISTRY will meet Sunday, September 16 at 9:30.

ATTENTION RUNNERS: Please let Pastor Larry Kemp know if you are planning to participate in the City of Pittsburgh Great Race on September 30, 2018

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.

SOUND SYSTEM OPERATORS NEEDED! We have a **DESPERATE** need for members to run our sound system. **Please see Pastor for details.**

CD DELIVERY: We are looking for individuals to deliver the CD's from Sunday worship to some of our shut-ins. This would be approximately once per month. If you are interested in this ministry, please call the church office or use the back of the prayer request card and place it in the offering plate.

CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST begins September 9. Sign up calendar and instructions are on the table in the narthex. Please sign up for a Sunday.

HARVEST SUNDAY will be celebrated on Sunday, October 21. Please bring canned goods to replenish the Emergency Food supply.

ECUMENICAL HYMN festival "And Who is My Neighbor" will be held on Reformation Sunday, October 28 at 4:00 pm in the sanctuary. All are invited.



Are you missing a hat, coat, sunglasses or jewelry? If so, check with the office secretaries. **Any items not picked up by September 9th will be put on the Free Table!**

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church WELCA invites all women of First to attend a covered dish dinner Monday, September 10 at 6:00 PM with a presentation by Denise Heggeman from Latrobe. Please RSVP to Lillian Shea at 724-837-8688 by September 9 if you plan to attend.

GOD’S WORK, OUR HANDS

Social Ministry Committee is teaming with Habitat for Humanity on a local project. We are looking for volunteers 16 years of age and older to work on site. There is an opportunity for others to volunteer at Habitat for Humanity’s Thrift Shop. Details to follow. Please leave your name and email address at the church office or contact David Cobb.

On September 15th, we will be working on a new rehab project. Details to follow soon.

What’s Next?

(An update on the call process)

We have met several times in the last few weeks.

We are moving forward with the Ministry Site Profile and will be completing it within the next few weeks.

Thank you to everyone who has been helping us with compiling the information we need to complete the survey.

God bless us all,

The Call Committee



CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST BACK AGAIN!

Continental Breakfast resumes next Sunday in the Fellowship Hall
from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m.

Please consider helping with this important ministry once or several times this year. **A calendar is located on the table (near the bulletin board) at the back of the church in the narthex for you to sign up to coordinate the breakfast on the Sunday(s) of your choice.**

Each Sunday that you are the coordinator, you will need to purchase donuts to bring to the church (you may submit your receipts for reimbursement), set up for the breakfast, and do light clean-up afterwards. A weekly supplies list and set-up guide are available.

If you have any questions, please call the church office at 724-834-1457 or speak to Sue Boggs, who oversees the breakfast. This could be a great individual, family, or group project!

***It's not just about the breakfast food...it is about
the time of fellowship we have with one another!***