

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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GREENSBURG, PA**

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

felchurch.org

**September 2018**

**Seizing the Opportunity that Knocks**

“A glorious opportunity is knocking at the door of our Church.”

The Reverend William F. Pfeifer, Pastor  
“A Message from the Pastor” (1956)

I found these words in a booklet from 1956. They were written by the pastor to introduce a capital appeal that was about to commence for the building of First’s educational building, which was completed in 1959. The appeal was to address an extremely serious problem: too many Sunday school students were overcrowding the existing space. To address that challenge, seen as an opportunity, Pastor Pfeifer went on to say:

*It seems to me that there is only one thing to do: we must seize this opportunity which is before us and move forward. A Church can never stand still. It must either advance or fall by the wayside. And we can advance if we consider ourselves stewards of God’s riches entrusted to our hands and our hearts. (id.)*

I realize that it is no longer 1956. However, while the challenges that face us are different today than they were at other points in the history of this congregation, I do not believe they are greater than they were in 1784 when the congregation was founded or at any point thereafter when challenges arose and opportunity knocked.

Opportunity continues to knock as we move into September. It will when we gather to worship in Word and Sacrament. It will when Sunday school starts. It will when our feeding programs continue through the week. It will when we have special projects like the Labor Day cookie delivery and Habitat for Humanity. The question for us in our time and place is whether we are ready to seize the opportunity and advance as “stewards of God’s riches entrusted to our hands and our hearts.” Sixty-two years after Pastor Pfeifer’s challenge to another generation, “A glorious opportunity is knocking at the door of our Church.” The challenge is ours to claim.

With You in Christ,  
Pastor Larry Kemp

## RALLY DAY PLANNED FOR SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9



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 a lunch. The menu includes:

Chicken Salad on croissant

Hot Dogs on buns for the kids!

Pickles Chips Cookies

Punch / Coffee / Tea

Reservation forms for the lunch are included in the church bulletin or use the form below or you may call the church office. Reservations are requested by September 5, 2018.

Make sure to mark your calendar to kick off this year of learning and mission!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Number attending \_\_\_\_\_

*A donation to defray expenses  
may be given if you so desire.*



### FIRLU HAS HEARD...

-that as of July 25th our offering receipts are \$16,301; last year they were \$14,780.

-that the Sacrament of Holy Baptism was given to *Emmalyn Jule Miller*, daughter of Charles and Erin Miller August 5. We rejoice in the waters of baptism and God's gift of new birth.

-that registrations are being accepted for the 2018-2019 term of the First Lutheran Preschool. Classes are offered for children ages 3 and 4. Please speak to Barb Krunszynsky or call the church office for more information.

-that Preschool students and teachers will return for classes Tuesday, September 4. It will be a pleasure to see the children again—their enthusiasm and excitement are refreshing!

-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 October newsletter is Monday, September 17th. Please be prompt. You may submit your articles to [office@felchurch.org](mailto:office@felchurch.org).

-that Continental Breakfast will resume on September 9. Coordinators are needed for the breakfast. A sign up calendar is available in the narthex. For additional information, please call the church office or speak to Sue Boggs who oversees the breakfast. Thank you!

-that the JAVA TABLE will be open in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday September 16 between worship services. Fair Trade coffees, teas and chocolates will be available for purchase. Please contact the church office, if you would like any of the Fair Trade products before them.

See you at worship,  
FIRLU

**"Yes Lord!"**

**Responding to God with My Life  
WITH SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER**

**The Rev. Dr. Dave Daubert**

**Church** is a place to belong, to be fed, to answer God's calling to live a life that counts.

**We live our faith and share God's love** not only in church, but also in our homes, at work, and in our communities.

**Young people --**  
Come join us.  
Discover who you are and God's plan for you!

**Everyone**, including the **"Young at Heart"**

Come celebrate who you are! Find out how you can best live your life in service to God and others.



**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15**

**9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

**Berkeley Hills Lutheran Church**

**517 Sangree Rd. Pittsburgh, PA 15237**

**Registration: \$15 per person**

**Includes taking an on-line**

**Personal Gifts Inventory, Workshop & Lunch**

**REGISTRATION INFORMATION: Beginning August 15**

**go to [www.bhlc.org](http://www.bhlc.org) where you will be able to register**

**and will be directed to the Personal Gifts Inventory**



## **GOD'S WORK OUR HANDS**

We will celebrate Labor Day (September 3, 2018) by delivering cookies to emergency responders who are working on the holiday, showing our appreciation for their work and who we are at First.

**Another opportunity to participate in God's Work Our Hands** is offered by the Social Ministry Committee which is teaming with Habitat for Humanity on a local project. **We will be working on a new rehab project Saturday, September 15.** We are looking for volunteers 16 years of age and older to work on site. There is also an opportunity for others to volunteer at Habitat for Humanity's Thrift Shop. Please leave your name and email address at the church office or contact David Cobb

## **REGULAR WORSHIP SERVICES RESUME SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9**



We will return to our regular worship schedule on Sunday, September 9, with worship services at 8:15 and 10:45 AM.

# SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS: TEACHERS AND CLASSES



From September thru May, join us for  
 Sunday School  
 9:30 AM weekly!

Preschool & Kindergarten	Erika Colonna
First & Second Grade	Sue Boggs & Kelly Vuick
Third & Fourth Grade	Dianna Marusko
Fifth & Sixth Grade	Megan Zobb
Confirmation (Seventh & Eighth Grade)	Pastor Larry Kemp
High School	Molly Maga
Adult	Fellowship Hour

Come weekly and learn more about your faith!!



## FIRST LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL "BACK TO SCHOOL" BUS NEEDS YOUR HELP

Our Preschool Bus is parked in the education building foyer. It contains red and green apple post-it note suggestions for supplies needed for this year's preschool classes.

If you are willing to help, please remove a red apple suggestion sticker and purchase the item for the preschool. If you remove a green apple sticker with a financial gift suggestion, you may place your gift in the offering plate or turn it into the office and we will purchase the item.

Our little ones and their teachers appreciate your gifts!

# Serving At First In September 2018

9/2                      9/9                      9/16                      9/23                      9/30

## ACOLYTES

Reese Woodley Mia Saraceni	Ailanthus Hanzel Erik Hanzel Bradley Schmidt	Drew Erdman Christopher Steel	Reese Woodley Alyssa Tomb Haley Tomb	Ailanthus Hanzel Erik Hanzel Erika Ament
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## ASSISTING MINISTERS

Rebecca Brunetta	Rocco Marusko	Pat Yost	Erik Hanzel	Suzy Flory
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## LECTORS

Kim Nicassio Rich Druschel	Sue Boggs Sunshine Keiser	David von Schlichten Bob Errett	Gail Armstrong Malcolm Sias	Kathy McMaster Alex Byers
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## AV MINISTRY TEAM

Al Danilko	Drew Erdman	Dwight Miller Lexi Hahn Scott Hahn	Liz Rowe Spencer Irwin
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## Delivery

Helen Marie Flinner	Betty Mohney	Cheryl Lucas	Helen Marie Flinner
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## 8:15

### USHERS

Kip Boggs - chief  
 Noah Boggs  
 Sue Boggs

## 10:00

### USHERS

Lou Shutt - chief  
 Al Danilko  
 Malcolm Sias  
 Merle Baker

## ALTAR GUILD

Dianna Marusko  
 - coordinator  
 Carol Baker

**In the Lord's Prayer we pray:**

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

### *Apologies*

Are extended to Eric and Sara Shadwick for misspelling their names in last month's newsletter.

It should have read: the Sacrament of Holy Baptism was given to Sofia Grace Shadwick, daughter of Eric and Sara Shadwick, July 15.

And also to Rick and Molly Maga for the wrong last name in last month's newsletter. The announcement should have read: the Sacrament of Holy Baptism was given to Wyatt Richard Maga, son of Rick and Molly Maga, July 22.

**ANIMAL BLESSING** in the park at First in October. **Date and time to be announced.** You are invited to bring your pet (animal or a picture of it) as we offer God's blessing for its place in your life and commemorate the work of Francis of Assisi in the life of the Church. If you do bring your pet or animal, it cannot be a threat to the safety of people or other animals and needs to be completely within your control either on a leash or in some type of cage. And of course, we ask that you clean up after it. If you have any questions, please contact pastor.

## Opportunities to Serve at Sunday Worship

On Sunday morning, we have a number of opportunities to serve our Lord and the congregation at First. Those opportunities are:

Altar Guild

Assisting Minister

Choir

Communion Assistant

Greeter

Lector

Sound System Operator Usher

All of these are valuable parts of our time in worship. We have a particular need for ushers and people to run the sound system.

If this sounds like something you might be called to do, please speak with the pastor.

We **URGENTLY** need help recording the weekly service and editing the recording to CD. Training will be provided. Please call the church at 724-834-1457 or email the church office at [office@felchurch.org](mailto:office@felchurch.org), if you would like to volunteer. This is a vital ministry for those unable to attend services and your help would be greatly appreciated.

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.

# 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.

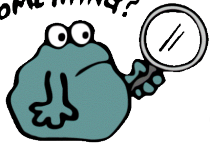
God bless us all,

The Call Committee

## WHO AND WHERE IS MY NEIGHBOR?

The Evangelism Team is asking everyone in attendance on Sunday morning to be aware of those sitting nearby. If someone is new, please be sure to welcome him or her by introducing yourself and making an introduction to the pastor, if possible. If someone you know is missing, please take a moment through the week to give him or her a call or send an email

LOOKING FOR SOMETHING?



Are you missing a hat, coat, jewelry? If so, check with the office secretaries. Several items have been left in the church and are collecting dust in the office!

**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.

*Western Adventure* by Paul Hutchens – Book #22 in the Sugar Creek Gang series. Hanging the imaginary horse thief Snaterpazooka in the Sugar Creek Hills leads to an out-of-control campfire, a horse incident and a runaway boat. As Bill Collins faces trouble with Tom Till, he remembers the sermon about ruling your spirit and being slow to anger.

*The Granny Game* by Beverly Lewis – Book #20 in the Cul-de-Sac series. Abby Hunter's parents are out of town, and Grandma Hunter has come to take care of Abby, Carly, Shawn and Jimmy.

All goes well until Granny Mae shows up, too. She's quite sure that Grandma Hunter needs some help and the fun begins! Grandma Hunter is strict and careful. Granny Mae is relaxed and "cool". Will Abby's very opposite grannies be able to get along? The whole cul-de-sac learns a lesson they'll never forget!



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.



## 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

## September Library News



First Lutheran library is located on the second floor of the education building. All church members and their families are welcome to stop in and check out reading and visual aide materials. New materials are added each month.

### New this month:

**RISEN** (DVD) – RISEN is the epic Biblical story of the Resurrection as told through the eyes of a non-believer. Clavius, a powerful Roman military tribune, and his aide, Lucius, are tasked with solving the mystery of what happened to Jesus in the weeks following the crucifixion in order to disprove the rumors of a risen Messiah and prevent an uprising in Jerusalem.

**MY ALL AMERICAN** (DVD) – MY ALL AMERICAN tells the true story of Freddie Steinmark. Although deemed too small as an athlete, Freddie dreams of playing football and brings a fight to the game that is noticed by legendary coach Darrell Royal, leading to a scholarship to play college football. With dedication and grueling practices, a victorious season is within reach, but Freddie then receives a shocking diagnosis and discovers what it truly means to have the heart of a champion.

### New for young teens and children:

**Prairie Homestead** by Arleta Richardson – Book Three in the Beyond the Orphan Train Series for young teens. Since their mama died and their pa left, Ethan, Alice, Simon, and Will Cooper have not known much of a home. But now that the Orphan Train has taken them to Mr. and Mrs. Rush in Nebraska, their dreams of a home may become a reality. The kids, however, discover that life on a farm is full of challenges.

continued

## ANOTHER WORSHIP OPPORTUNITY AT FIRST!



We are 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 services but 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 week.

## WORSHIP AND MUSIC NEWS



Choir rehearsals will begin Thursday, September 13. Handbell Choir meets at 6:15, First Lutheran Choir at 7:00.

You are invited to an ecumenical hymn festival, “And Who is My Neighbor,” on Reformation Sunday afternoon, October 28 at 4:00 here in the sanctuary. Come join together as we explore through words and music the theme “and who is my neighbor?” In addition to hymns, readings and special music, there will be a combined choir anthem.

# September 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 8:15 Worship 10:00 Worship	3	4  7:00 Council	5 FOOD/HEART Noon  6:00 Worship 7:00 Fellowship	6	7	8
9 8:15 Worship 9:30 SCS Rally Day 10:45 Worship  Rally Day Luncheon	10	11  6:00 Personnel	12 FOOD/HEART Noon  6:00 Worship	13  6:15 Bells 7:00 Choir 7:30 Ruth Circle	14	15  <b>Habitat for Humanity</b>
16 8:15 Worship 9:30 SCS 10:45 Worship  JAVA TABLE 9:30 Soc. Ministry	17 <b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b>	18  6:30 Finance 7:00 Christian Ed/ Youth	19 FOOD/HEART Noon  6:00 Worship	20 <b>FOOD PANTRY</b>  6:15 Bells 7:00 Choir	21	22
23 / 30  8:15 Worship 9:30 SCS 10:45 Worship	24	25  <b>NEWSLETTER-FOLDING</b>  6:00 Executive	26 FOOD/HEART Noon  6:00 Worship 6:30 Property	27  6:15 Bells 7:00 Choir	28	29

## CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST



begins September 9.

Sign up calendar and instructions are on the table in the narthex. Please sign up for a Sunday.

## 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!