

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

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.

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 23, 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.

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

The assembly kneels. Silence is kept for reflection.

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 a gathering song.

Hymn “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”

815

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



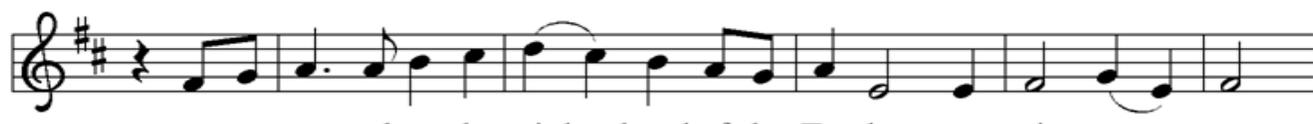
wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



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 teacher and guide, you draw us to yourself and welcome us as beloved children. Help us to lay aside all envy and selfish ambition, that we may walk in your ways of wisdom and understanding as servants of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen

The congregation may be seated.

WORD

First Reading Jeremiah 11:18-20

It was the LORD who made it known to me, and I knew;
then you showed me their evil deeds.

¹⁹ But I was like a gentle lamb
led to the slaughter.

And I did not know it was against me
that they devised schemes, saying,
'Let us destroy the tree with its fruit,
let us cut him off from the land of the living,
so that his name will no longer be remembered!'

²⁰ But you, O LORD of hosts, who judge righteously,
who try the heart and the mind,
let me see your retribution upon them,
for to you I have committed my cause.

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Psalm 54

(Read responsively: Lector / Congregation)

¹Save me, O God, | by your name;
in your might, de- | fend my cause.

²**Hear my | prayer, O God;**
give ear to the words | of my mouth.

³For strangers have risen up against me,
and the ruthless have | sought my life,
those who have no re- | gard for God.

⁴**Behold, God | is my helper;**
it is the Lord who sus- | tains my life.

⁵Render evil to those who | spy on me;
in your faithful- | ness, destroy them.

⁶**I will offer you a | freewill sacrifice**
and praise your name, O LORD, for | it is good.

⁷For you have rescued me from | every trouble,
and my eye looks down | on my enemies.

Second Reading James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a

Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. ¹⁴But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. ¹⁵Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. ¹⁶For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. ¹⁷But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. ¹⁸And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.

^{4:1}Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? ²You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. ³You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures.

⁷Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

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, and a quarter note G4.



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 half note G4, a quarter note F#4, a quarter note E4, a quarter note D4, and a whole note C4.

Gospel Mark 9:30-37

R/Glory to you, O Lord.

They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; ³¹for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, “The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again.” ³²But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

³³ Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, “What were you arguing about on the way?” ³⁴But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest. ³⁵He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, “Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.” ³⁶Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, ³⁷“Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.”

The Gospel of the Lord

R/ Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: “Children of the Heavenly Father” # 781

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, and rests.

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, and rests.

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 “Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness”

843

Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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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, Alyssa Tomb and Haley Tomb.

LECTORS are Gail Armstrong and Bob Errett.

WORSHIP ASSISTANT is Erik Hanzel.

GREETERS include at 8:15 Erik Hanzel- north door, Pastor Larry Kemp - center, - south door; at 10:45 Erik Hanzel- north door, Pastor Larry Kemp - center, Megan Zobb - south door.

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.

PRAYER CONCERNS:

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER this week Lisa, Brandie, Ed, Pat, Lynn, Babs, Jim, Mary Lou, Dorothy, Diana, Mark, Lori, Denise, Christopher, Jim, Marshall, Debra, Mark, Billy, Autumn, Kathleen, Karen, Bob, Kathryn, the family of Howard Piper and the family of Pam Errett.

THE ALTAR FLOWERS are given in memory of Albert Petrazzi by his wife and children.

THE CHANCEL FLOWERS are given in memory of Irene A. Skodak by her daughter, Marla DeCriscio and in memory of father, Clyde Moyer 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.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

CONDOLENCES are extended to the family of Pam Errett who died September 15, 2018 and the family of Howard Piper who died September 13, 2018.

COUNCIL meets today, 9:30 AM

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

NEWSLETTER FOLDING Tuesday, September 25 at 10:30 AM.

EXECUTIVE meets Tuesday, 6:00 PM.

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

WORSHIP WORD and SACRAMENT Wednesday, 6:00 PM

PROPERTY meets Wednesday, 6:30 PM.

CHOIRS rehearse Thursday night. Bell choir meets at 6:15; adult choir meets at 7:00 pm.

EVANGELISM meets Thursday, 7:00 PM.

MEMORIAL DONATION was received for Food From The Heart in memory of Jack Erickson.

WELCA FALL CLUSTER MEETING Saturday, October 6 at Good Shepherd Church. The topic will be presented by Kelli Connolly on Hospice/Palliative Care. Registration begins at 9:00 AM. Reservations are due by October 1. If you are interested, forms are located in the WELCA mailbox in the church office.

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.

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.

SALAD BAR at Christ’s Church, 145 North Main Street, Friday October 5, 2018 from 11 AM to 1:30 PM. Donation of \$8.00 to benefit local charities.

FREE ORGAN CONCERT 4:00 PM Sunday October 14 at First Evangelical Lutheran Church, 358 Main St., Leechburg, PA.

DOING EXTRAORDINARY STEWARDSHIP Saturday, September 29, 2018 at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 4503 Old William Penn Highway, Monroeville, PA. Come and see ordinary people who saw a need and responded in an extraordinary way. Take what you experience and turn it into extraordinary action in your community! \$10 donation (cash or check made payable to SWPA Synod). Register by September 24 at 412-367-8222 or Melissa.stoller@elca.org.



**FIRST LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL
“BACK TO SCHOOL” BUS
NEEDS YOUR HELP**

Our Preschool Bus is parked in the sanctuary. 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!

MATCHING GIFT PROGRAM 2018

First Lutheran has sponsored a Matching Gifts program since 2002. Members of First Lutheran are invited to make a gift to any non-profit, human service organization whose mission is in accordance with First Lutheran’s mission, as agreed upon by our Social Ministry Activating Team. Such gifts will be matched by a First Lutheran Check and will be sent to the organization. Also, such gifts can be made throughout the year until the total budgeted amount of \$10,000 is met.

Individual organizations are only eligible to receive up to \$2,000 from the matching gifts program until November 11, 2018. If there are any matching funds money remaining after November 11, any size gift will be matched until the program budget is exhausted. The \$10,000 in matching funds is budgeted from our 2018 Trust Fund distribution.

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, 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.