

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.

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 9, 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.

Today's hymn texts were written by Carolyn Gillette, only 3 of her 400 plus texts. They are to be sung to familiar tunes as we are doing today. Further information on the author may be found in the bulletin announcements .

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 a gathering song.

Hymn “She Came to Jesus”

(Tune: # 793)

She came to Jesus from outside the fold,
Canannite woman! Persistent and bold!
Looking to Jesus, she wanted to see,
one who would help her and set her child free.

Claiming a blessing, a touch of God's grace,
She knew God's love was not bounded by place.
Jesus, you listened, debated, then healed.
For in her asking, her faith was revealed.

God, you still bless those who seek you in prayer.
You welcome dreamers who faithfully dare.
In Christ, now risen, your mercy extends:
Those on the outside are welcomed as friends.

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

Gracious God, throughout the ages you transform sickness into health and death into life. Open us to the power of your presence, and make us a people ready to proclaim your promises to the whole world, through Jesus Christ, our healer and Lord.

Amen

The congregation may be seated.

WORD

First Reading Isaiah 35:4-7a

Say to those who are of a fearful heart,

“Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.”

⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

⁶ then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;

⁷ the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water.

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Psalm 146

(Read responsively: Lector / Congregation)

¹Hal- | lelujah!

Praise the LORD, | O my soul!

²**I will praise the LORD as long | as I live;**

I will sing praises to my God while I | have my being.

³Put not your | trust in rulers,

in mortals in whom there | is no help.

⁴**When they breathe their last, they re- | turn to earth,**

and in that day | their thoughts perish.

⁵Happy are they who have the God of Jacob | for their help,

whose hope is in the | LORD their God;

⁶**who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that | is in them;**

who keeps promis- | es forever;

⁷who gives justice to those who are oppressed,

and food to | those who hunger.

The LORD sets the cap- | tive free.

⁸**The LORD opens the eyes of the blind;**

the LORD lifts up those who | are bowed down;

the LORD | loves the righteous.

⁹The LORD cares | for the stranger;

the LORD sustains the orphan and widow,

but frustrates the way | of the wicked.

¹⁰**The LORD shall | reign forever,**

your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. | Hallelujah!

Second Reading James 2:1-17

My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? ²For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, ³and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, “Have a seat here, please”, while to the one who is poor you say, “Stand there”, or, “Sit at my feet”, ⁴have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts?⁵Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? ⁶But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court?⁷Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

⁸You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ⁹But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. ¹⁰For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. ¹¹For the one who said, “You shall not commit adultery”, also said, “You shall not murder.” Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. ¹²So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. ¹³For judgement will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgement.

¹⁴What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? ¹⁵If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, ¹⁶and one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill”, and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? ¹⁷So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

L: The Word of the Lord

C: 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.

Gospel Mark 7:24-37

R/Glory to you, O Lord.

From there he set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice,²⁵ but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet.²⁶ Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter.²⁷ He said to her, “Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.”²⁸ But she answered him, “Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.”²⁹ Then he said to her, “For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter.”³⁰ So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

³¹ Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis.³² They brought

to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. ³³He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. ³⁴Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, “Epphatha”, that is, “Be opened.” ³⁵And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. ³⁶Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. ³⁷They were astounded beyond measure, saying, “He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.”

The Gospel of the Lord

R/ Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day “Be Doers of the Word of God” (Tune: # 521)

Be doers of the word of God, not simply those who hear,
Be ones who look into God's work, obey, and persevere.
Be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to anger, too.
Put wrath aside; instead, be just, and let God work in you.

Religion that is undefiled, religion that is pure,
Will reach to help the orphaned child and welcome all the poor,
If people come here poorly dressed to judge them is a sin.
The rich aren't better than the rest: God welcomes all, come in

O Christ, you save us by God's grace, we willingly thus obey .
Then freed to love, we can embrace a life that seeks your way.
May we be doers of the word; may faith shine through our deeds,
And as we seek to trust in God, may ethics follow creeds.

OPENING OF THE SCHOOL YEAR

Blessing of backpacks

Commissioning Sunday School Teachers

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.)

CHOIR ANTHEM: Sing to the Lord a New Song (Kenneth Kosche)

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.

Blessing of the Candle Lighters

Offertory Prayer (in unison)

Let us pray.

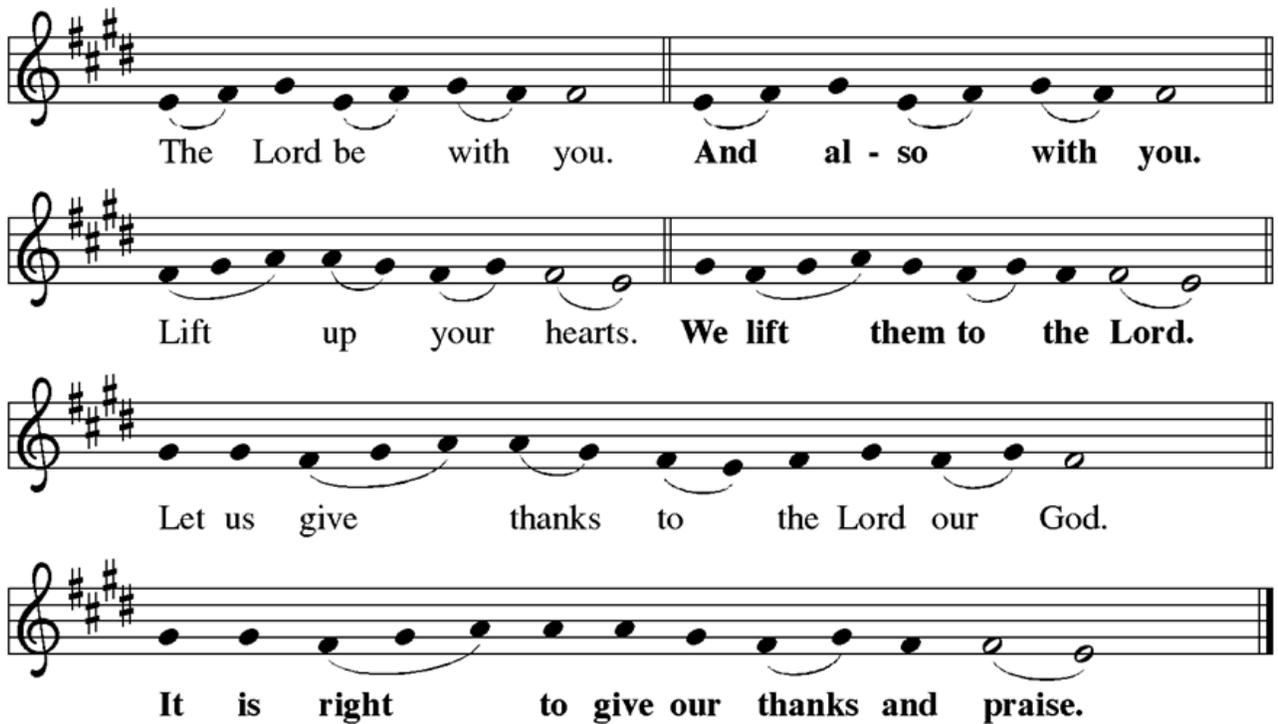
Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things.

**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.**

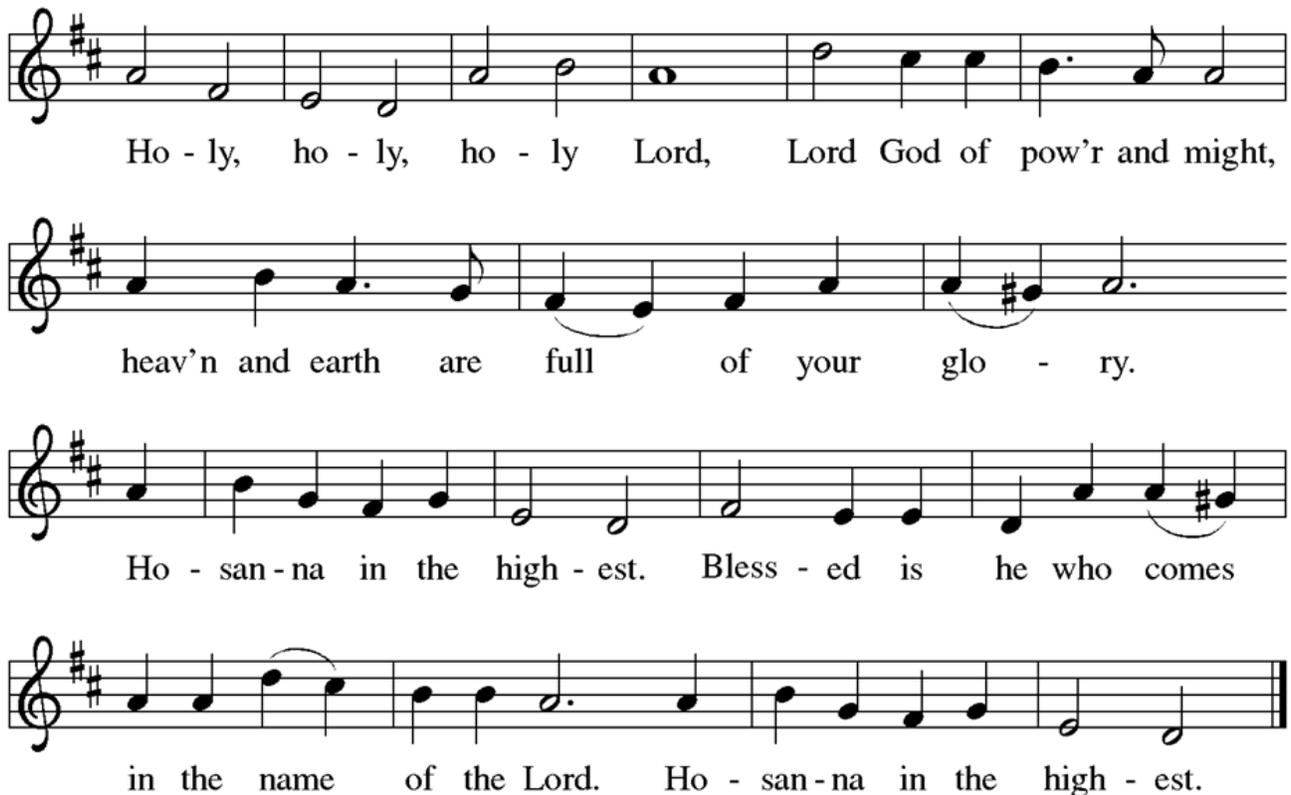
Amen.

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.

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.

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.

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 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 “O Lord, May All We Say and Do”

(Tune: # 565)

O Lord, may all we say and do reflect the faith we have in you;
For faith is meant to change the way we live our lives from day to day.

God, may we open wide the door and welcome people who are poor;
And may we share with them our bread, for faith without good works is dead.

Just as a spark can start a fire, our words can damage or inspire;
We pray for wisdom from above to speak and act in gentle love.

May we not covet earthly things or seek the riches this world brings;
May we not boast of all our plans, for Lord, our lives are in your hands.

O Lord, possessions rust away, but your love fills us every day;
Through prayer and service in your name, may we live out the faith we claim.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

BLESSED TO BLESS

SERVING TODAY:

ACOLYTES are Ailanthus Hanzel, Erik Hanzel and Bradley Schmidt.

LECTORS are Sue Boggs and Sunshine Keiser.

WORSHIP ASSISTANT is Rocco Marusko.

AUDIO/VISUAL (AV) MINISTRY is provided by Drew Erdman.

GREETERS include at 8:15 Rocco Marusko - north door, Pastor Larry Kemp - center, - south door; at 10:00 Rocco Marusko - north door, Pastor Larry Kemp - center, Pam Errett - south door.

In the Lord's Prayer we pray:

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

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, Debra, Mark, Billy, Autumn, and Kathleen.

THE ALTAR FLOWERS are given in memory of Edward Watts by his family.

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:

TODAY'S HYMN TEXTS were written by Carolyn Gillette, who grew up in a family that was, and still is, active in the United Methodist Church. She remembers as a child, standing on the pew, holding a hymnal before she could even read it, and trying to sing along. Her father was an English professor and both her parents encouraged her to love language and writing. She graduated from Lebanon Valley College in 1982, received her M.Div. from Princeton Seminary in 1985, and was ordained in the Presbyterian Church in 1986. Her husband, Bruce, has offered plenty of encouragement and support for her hymn writing. The two have enjoyed working together to share Carolyn's hymn texts with others both close to home and around the world.

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

PERSONNEL 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

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

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.

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

THANK YOU to all who baked cookies and/or delivered them on Labor Day to the Westmoreland Hospital emergency room, the Greensburg police department, the State Police barracks and Mutual Aid.

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.

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 (Deaconess at Trinity Lutheran Church, Latrobe). Please RSVP to Lillian Shea at 724-837-8688 by September 9 (today) if you plan to attend.

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, email the church office at office@felchurch.org or **see Pastor for details** if you would like to volunteer. This is a vital ministry for those unable to attend services and your help would be greatly appreciated.

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.

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.

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.



CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST BACK AGAIN!

Continental Breakfast resumes TODAY 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!***



**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 12, 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.

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