

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.

NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 30, 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.

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 “O God, We Rage at Hurtful Things”

(Tune: O God our Help in Ages Past)

O God, we rage at hurtful things beyond our own control.
Like all the pain that illness brings to body, mind and soul.

There's much we cannot understand: O Lord, we ask you, "Why?"
And yet in Christ you know firsthand the tears your people cry.

O Christ, your loving, saving touch heals children, women, men.
We pray for ones we love so much; Lord, make them whole again.

Now work through those your Spirit sends to heal, restore and care,
May doctors, nurses, neighbors, friends be answers to our prayer.

And when the journey seems too rough and you seem far away,
Remind us, Lord: You are enough to bring us through each day.

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

Generous God, your Son gave his life that we might come to peace with you. Give us a share of your Spirit, and in all we do empower us to bear the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen

The congregation may be seated.

WORD

First Reading Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29

The rabble among them had a strong craving; and the Israelites also wept again, and said, “If only we had meat to eat! ⁵We remember the fish we used to eat in Egypt for nothing, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic; ⁶but now our strength is dried up, and there is nothing at all but this manna to look at.”

¹⁰ Moses heard the people weeping throughout their families, all at the entrances of their tents. Then the LORD became very angry, and Moses was displeased. ¹¹So Moses said to the LORD, “Why have you treated your servant so badly? Why have I not found favor in your sight, that you lay the burden of all this people on me? ¹²Did I conceive all this people? Did I give birth to them, that you should say to me, “Carry them in your bosom, as a nurse carries a sucking child”, to the land that you promised on oath to their ancestors? ¹³Where am I to get meat to give to all this people? For they come weeping to me and say, “Give us meat to eat!” ¹⁴I am not able to carry all this people alone, for they are too heavy for me. ¹⁵If this is the way you are going to treat me, put me to death at once—if I have found favor in your sight—and do not let me see my misery.”

¹⁶ So the LORD said to Moses, “Gather for me seventy of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them; bring them to the tent of meeting, and have them take their place there with you.”

²⁴ So Moses went out and told the people the words of the LORD; and he gathered seventy elders of the people, and placed them all around the tent. ²⁵ Then the LORD came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders; and when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied. But they did not do so again.

²⁶ Two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the spirit rested on them; they were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the camp. ²⁷ And a young man ran and told Moses, “Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.” ²⁸ And Joshua son of Nun, the assistant of Moses, one of his chosen men, said, “My lord Moses, stop them!” ²⁹ But Moses said to him, “Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the LORD’s people were prophets, and that the LORD would put his spirit on them!”

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Psalm 19:7-14

(Read responsively: Lector / Congregation)

⁷The teaching of the LORD is perfect and re-[|]vives the soul;
the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to[|] the simple.

⁸**The statutes of the LORD are just and re-[|]joice the heart;**
the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light[|] to the eyes.

⁹The fear of the LORD is clean and en- | dures forever;
the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous | altogether.

**¹⁰More to be desired are they than gold, more than | much fine gold,
sweeter far than honey, than honey | in the comb.**

¹¹By them also is your ser- | vant enlightened,
and in keeping them there is | great reward.

**¹²Who can detect one's | own offenses?
Cleanse me from my | secret faults.**

¹³Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins;
let them not get dominion | over me;
then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a | great offense.

**¹⁴Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable | in your sight,
O LORD, my strength and | my redeemer.**

Second Reading James 5:13-20

Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. ¹⁴Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. ¹⁶Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. ¹⁷Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. ¹⁸Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest.

¹⁹My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, ²⁰you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

L: The Word of the Lord

C:Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation



Gospel Mark 9:38-50

R/Glory to you, O Lord.

John said to him, “Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.”³⁹ But Jesus said, “Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterwards to speak evil of me.⁴⁰ Whoever is not against us is for us.⁴¹ For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.”

⁴² “If any of you put a stumbling-block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea.⁴³ If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire.⁴⁵ And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell.⁴⁷ And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell,⁴⁸ where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

⁴⁹ “For everyone will be salted with fire. ⁵⁰ Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.”

The Gospel of the Lord

R/ Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: “Once a Woman Seeking Water”
(Tune: Love Divine)

Once a woman seeking water at a well not far from home,
Met a thirsty, waiting stranger from a people not her own.
Would she give him a drink of water and respond to human need?
Could she know the joy and wonder she, the giver, would receive?

She drew water for the thirsty; Jesus offered something more:
Living water, God's own mercy, love abundant, freely poured.
One, a blessing for the body; one, a blessing for the soul?
Both are gifts of our Creator, gifts that help to make us whole.

Still God's people carry water from their wells and mountain streams;
Still at rivers women gather, sharing labor, sharing dreams.
Still a cup of water given in a dry and weary place
Is a blessing overflowing from the fountain of God's grace.

God, we ask your richest favor on the work we seek to do;
May we gladly share clean water and your living water, too.
May we see the face of Jesus, and how far your love extends.
In the ones we call our partners, no more strangers, now our friends.

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 titled 'The Great Thanksgiving'. It consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: '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 melody is simple and hymn-like, using quarter and eighth notes with various rests and slurs.

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 join their unending hymn.

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 titled 'Hosanna in the High - est'. It consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: '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 melody is simple and hymn-like, using quarter and eighth notes with various rests and slurs.

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: All Praise to Thee)

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.

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BLESSED TO BLESS

SERVING TODAY:

ACOLYTES are Erik Hanzel and Erika Ament.

LECTORS are Kathy McMaster and Alex Byers.

WORSHIP ASSISTANT is Suzy Flory.

GREETERS include at 8:15 Suzy Flory- north door, Pastor Larry Kemp - center, - south door; at 10:45 Suzy Flory - north door, Pastor Larry Kemp - center, Marsha Danilko - 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, Bonnie and Julie Clark

THE ALTAR FLOWERS are given in honor of Al Leppold's 75th birthday by Mary Furlong-Leppold.

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.

In the Lord's Prayer we pray:

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

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

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

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.

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

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. Thank you!

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. Call Lillian Shea at 724-837-8688 if you are planning to attend. Reservations are due by October 1.

2018 CWS/CROP WALK will be Sunday, October 7, to raise money for world hunger. If you are interested in contributing or walking, please contact Pastor Larry Kemp for details.

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY of the book of Acts begins Monday, October 8 at 7:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Bring your Bibles and together we'll study the adventures of the early Christian Church.

RUTH CIRCLE will meet Thursday, October 11 at 7:30 PM in the parlor. We will have a program, some planning time and a delicious dessert. All women in welcome!

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.

PLEASE make Hurricane Florence / Disaster Response checks **payable to First Lutheran Church** and one check from the church will be mailed to the ELCA. Write “Hurricane response” or “Where needed most” on your checks memo line. Place your check in a gold envelope with your name on it.



**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!

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.

LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE

HURRICANE FLORENCE

Hurricane Florence is threatening more than 1 million of our neighbors in the Carolinas and elsewhere with dangerous winds, storm surge and potentially catastrophic flooding.

As a church, we're standing ready to assist our neighbors through their recovery. Lutheran Disaster Response is coordinating with Lutheran Services Carolinas, Lutheran Family Services of Virginia and the synods in the hurricane's path to respond to this disaster. In the midst of a hurricane season that is producing strong storms, Lutheran Disaster Response is also ELCA.org/disaster monitoring Hurricane Helene, Tropical Storm Olivia and Tropical Storm Isaac and is prepared to respond.

Your gifts ensure that our church will be able to provide help and hope for those whose homes have been devastated or who have been otherwise affected by Hurricane Florence and other hurricanes for years to come.

Your gifts designated for hurricane response will be used entirely (100 percent) for direct response until it is complete. Give now to support survivors of disasters.

PLEASE make Hurricane Florence / Disaster Response checks **payable to First Lutheran Church** and one check from the church will be mailed to the ELCA. Write "Hurricane response" or "Where needed most" on your checks memo line. Place your check in a gold envelope with your name on it.