#### 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.

office@felchurch.org

Chris Combs Marvin J. Huls Pastor

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.

## SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

January 14, 2024 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**

Prelude Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above

(arr. Hal Hopson)

## **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 one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God, we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. 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** "Here I Am, Lord" #574

1 "I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin
my hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?"

## Refrain

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.

- 2 "I, the Lord of snow and rain,
  I have borne my people's pain.
  I have wept for love of them.
  They turn away.
  I will break their hearts of stone,
  give them hearts for love alone.
  I will speak my word to them.
  Whom shall I send?" Refrain
- 3 "I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame. I will set a feast for them. My hand will save. Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied. I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?" Refrain

## 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: "This is the Feast"





Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, most merciful redeemer, for the countless blessings and benefits you give. May we know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day praising you, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen

The congregation may be seated.

#### **WORD**

First Reading 1 Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20]

<sup>1</sup>Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

<sup>2</sup>At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; <sup>3</sup>the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. <sup>4</sup>Then the LORD called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" 5 and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. <sup>6</sup>The LORD called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." <sup>7</sup>Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. 8The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. <sup>9</sup>Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

<sup>10</sup>Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening." [<sup>11</sup>Then the LORD said to Samuel, "See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle. <sup>12</sup>On that day I will fulfill against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. <sup>13</sup>For I have told him that I am about to punish his house forever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. <sup>14</sup>Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering forever."

<sup>15</sup>Samuel lay there until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the LORD. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. <sup>16</sup>But Eli called Samuel and said, "Samuel, my son." He said, "Here I am." <sup>17</sup>Eli said, "What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also, if you hide anything from me of all that he told you." <sup>18</sup>So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. Then he said, "It is the LORD; let him do what seems good to him."

<sup>19</sup>As Samuel grew up, the LORD was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. <sup>20</sup>And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the LORD.]

The Word of the Lord. R/Thanks be to God!

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

(Read responsively)

<sup>1</sup>LORD, you have | searched me out; O LORD, you | have known me.

<sup>2</sup>You know my sitting down and my | rising up; you discern my thoughts | from afar.

<sup>3</sup>You trace my journeys and my | resting-places and are acquainted with | all my ways.

<sup>4</sup>Indeed, there is not a word | on my lips, but you, O LORD, know it | altogether.

<sup>5</sup>You encompass me, behind | and before, and lay your | hand upon me.

<sup>6</sup>Such knowledge is too wonder- | ful for me; it is so high that I cannot at- | tain to it.

<sup>13</sup>For you yourself created my | inmost parts; you knit me together in my | mother's womb.

<sup>14</sup>I will thank you because I am mar- | velously made; your works are wonderful, and I | know it well.

<sup>15</sup>My body was not hid- | den from you,

while I was being made in secret and woven in the depths | of the earth.

<sup>16</sup>Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb; all of them were written | in your book;

my days were fashioned before they | came to be.

<sup>17</sup>How deep I find your | thoughts, O God! How great is the | sum of them!

<sup>18</sup>If I were to count them, they would be more in number | than the sand;

to count them all, my life span would need to | be like yours.

## Second Reading 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

<sup>12</sup>"All things are lawful for me," but not all things are beneficial. "All things are lawful for me," but I will not be dominated by anything. <sup>13</sup>"Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food," and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is meant not for fornication but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. <sup>14</sup>And God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power. <sup>15</sup>Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Should I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! <sup>16</sup>Do you not know that whoever is united to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For it is said, "The two shall be one flesh." <sup>17</sup>But anyone united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. <sup>18</sup>Shun fornication! Every sin that a person commits is outside the body; but the fornicator sins against the body itself. <sup>19</sup>Or do you not

know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? <sup>20</sup>For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body.

The Word of the Lord. **R** 

R/Thanks be to God!

## **Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia. We have found the Messiah: Jesus Christ, who brings us grace and truth. Alleluia.

Gospel John 1:43-51

P: The Holy Gospel according to John the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter. **R/ Glory to you, O Lord.** 

<sup>43</sup>The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." <sup>44</sup>Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. <sup>45</sup>Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." <sup>46</sup>Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." <sup>47</sup>When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" <sup>48</sup>Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." <sup>49</sup>Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" <sup>50</sup>Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." <sup>51</sup>And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

P/The Gospel of the Lord. R/ Praise to you, O Christ.

## Youth Sermon (10:45 AM)

## Sermon

**Hymn** "Will You Come and Follow Me"

**#798** 

- 1 "Will you come and follow me if I but call your name? Will you go where you don't know and never be the same? Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known, will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?
- 2 "Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name? Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same? Will you risk the hostile stare, should your life attract or scare? Will you let me answer pray'r in you and you in me?
- 3 "Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name? Will you set the pris'ners free and never be the same? Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen, and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?

- 4 "Will you love the you you hide if I but call your name?
  Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
  Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around, through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?"
- 5 Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
  Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
  In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.
  Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

#### **APOSTLES' CREED**

With the whole church we confess our faith.

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.

The service continues with the prayers of intercession

## 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.

A brief silence.

As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God's blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.

At each petition, God of grace, receive our prayer.

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

Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

#### **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

Offerings may be placed in the plates as they are passed. You can utilize your regular envelopes or the gold envelopes in the pews. You can also utilize our new online giving tool through Tithe.ly by visiting felchurch.org or utilize the QR code here:

Checks can also be mailed to: First Lutheran, 246 S. Main Street, Greensburg, PA 15601.

Thank you for your generous support of First's Ministry.

(Children, please bring your offering to the front of the church and place it in the "Thank You Jesus" Jar.)

#### **OFFERTORY:**

My Faith Looks Up To Thee (arr. Hal Hopson) 8:15

10:45 Now Greet the Swiftly Changing Year (Alfred Fedak)

Now greet the swiftly changing year with joy and penitence sincere.

REFRAIN: Rejoice! Rejoice! With thanks embrace another year of grace.

This Jesus came to end sin's war. This name of names for us he bore. REFRAIN.

His love abundant far exceeds the volume of a whole year's need. REFRAIN.

With him as Lord to lead our way in want and in prosperity, what need we fear in earth or space in this new year of grace.

"All glory be to God on high and peace on earth" the angels cry. REFRAIN.

Offertory Response: "Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful" # 182



Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980 Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923 Text and music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

Offertory Prayer (in unison)

Let us pray.

God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things at your table, that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord.

Amen.

## Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

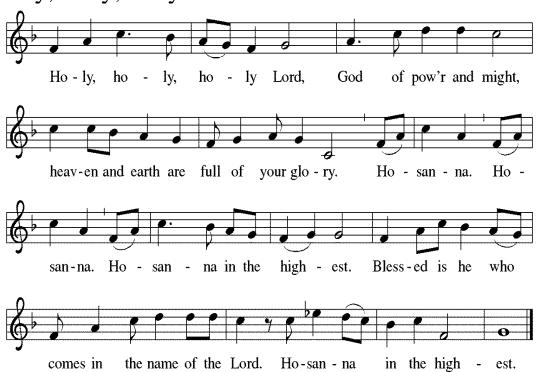
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## The presiding minister continues:

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ.

By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## Holy, Holy, Holy



## **Eucharistic Prayer**

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

#### Amen.

## Lord's Prayer

Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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.

#### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The gifts of God for the people of God. Taste and see that the Lord is good.

## **COMMUNION**

All who wish to receive the body and blood of Jesus for the forgiveness of their sins and the nourishment of their lives are welcome. It is not necessary to be a member of First Lutheran to receive the sacrament.

For those receiving the sacrament please note the following: Communion is at the rail for those who desire.

- We encourage everyone to continue using hand sanitizer before coming forward for communion
- As you approach the chancel, take a plastic cup from the tray.
- The communion rail will fill from both sides of the congregation.
- We encourage everyone to leave added space at the rail, primarily between family units.
- Cups can be placed in the receptacles near each side aisle as you return to your pew.
- For those who would like to receive communion, but are not comfortable coming to the rail, please let an Usher know so that the Pastor and Assisting Minister can bring communion to you.

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.

After all have received,

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his grace. **Amen**.

## Prayer after Communion

The assisting minister leads a prayer after communion.

Let us pray.

God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people.

Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

#### Amen

#### **SENDING**

## Blessing

The presiding minister proclaims God's blessing.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

Amen.

## **Hymn** "Lord, Be Glorified" #**744**

- 1 In my life, Lord, be glorified, be glorified; in my life, Lord, be glorified today.
- 2 In our song, Lord, be glorified, be glorified; in our song, Lord, be glorified today.
- 3 In your church, Lord, be glorified, be glorified; in your church, Lord, be glorified today.
- 4 In your world, Lord, be glorified, be glorified. In your world, Lord, be glorified today.

#### **Dismissal**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

#### Thanks be to God.

From Evangelical Lutheran Worship © 2006. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission of Augsburg Fortress under license #SB144012.

First 2 readings and the Gospel Reading: New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

The prayers of intercession (printed in each Sunday/festival section) may be reproduced for onetime, non-sale use, provided copies are for local use only and the following copyright notice appears: From Sundays and Seasons, copyright ©2024 Augsburg Fortress.

## **BLESSED TO BLESS**

## **SERVING TODAY:**

**ACOLYTES** are Molly Boggs and Addy Saraceni.

**LECTORS** are Kim Woodley and Bob Errett.

**WORSHIP ASSISTANT** is Rebecca Brunetta.

## **SERVING IN JANUARY:**

**ALTAR GUILD** for January includes Bev Attenberger and Shirley Huls.

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13

## **PRAYER CONCERNS:**

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER** this week Brandie, Suzy, Lois, Terry, Joyce, Cullen, Doug, Gavin, Dennis, Pat, Cindy, Tieesha, Christina, Annie, Daniel, Betty Jean, Barry, Stephen, Denny, Alecia, Bob, Jake, Jan, Teresa, Clare, Denise, Christopher, Judy, Beth and her unborn twins, Jack, Judy, Jeff, Jan, and Connie.

**THE ALTAR FLOWERS** are given in memory of loved ones by Tom and Suzy Flory and family.

**THE CHANCEL FLOWERS** are given in honor of family birthdays by Al 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.

**INDEPENDENCE HEALTH SYSTEM** (formerly Excela Health) does not notify the church of member admissions. Please notify the pastor or call the church office if you or your loved one is hospitalized.

## LOOKING FOR A WAY TO SERVE AT FIRST?

We are in need of volunteers to serve as lectors, particularly at the 8:15 service. We are also in need of Worship Assistants and members to serve on Altar Guild. Please consider if this is a way you can use your gifts at First. If you have any questions about what is involved, please get in touch with Pastor Chris.

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION:**

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

**JAVA TABLE** will be open in the Fellowship Hall today between worship services. Fair Trade coffees, teas and chocolates will be available for purchase.

CHOIR REHEARSAL 10:00 AM today.

**NOISY OFFERING** last Sunday was \$189.

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE** Monday, February 15.

FINANCE Tuesday, 6:30 PM.

**FOOD FROM THE HEART** Wednesday lunch continues as a BROWN BAG lunch provided from 12 to 12:45 PM. Lunches will be available for pick up by people walking at the gate to the park and to those driving at the basement door on Bononi Way (alley behind the church).

**FOOD PANTRY DISTRIBUTION** is this Thursday. Assistance is needed by 8:00 AM to unload the truck and sort groceries (Both unloading and inside help is much needed for FOOD BANK this Thursday at 8:00). If you can lend a hand on Thursday morning, your effort will be greatly appreciated.

**HANDBELLS** Thursday, 6:15 PM.

**A NURSERY** is available for children to use on the second floor of the Education Building, down the hall from the Library.

**WORSHIP ATTENDANCE** last Sunday morning was 71.

**PASTOR'S CONTACT INFORMATION:** Pastor Chris Combs may be reached either by calling the church office at 724-834-1457, by email at **PastorChris@felchurch.org** or by calling or texting his cell phone at 412-973-4179. If the concern is of an urgent nature, please call his cell phone.

## **Stewardship Snippets**

Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own?

#### 1 Corinthians 6:19

God has given us physical bodies, not to be abused but to be cared for so that we may be healthy physically, as well as mentally and spiritually. How can you better care for your "temple of the Holy Spirit" in 2024?

**OFFERING ENVELOPES** are available in the Narthex. You are asked to pick your envelopes before or after worship, or anytime during the week. Please deliver a box to a shut-in, family member, or neighbor who may not be able to take their box.

# CONGREGATION DINNER / MEETING February 4

Join the First Lutheran Family for business and fellowship on February 4 immediately following the 10:45 AM service. Lunch and fellowship will include a meal with meat, rolls, beverages, and dessert provided. You are asked to bring a covered dish of vegetables or salad and your own place settings.

**ANNUAL REPORT** There will be printed copies available at the back of the church beginning January 21 and also when we gather for the annual meeting on February 4.



## YOUTH / FAMILY BOWLING PARTY

12:30 PM -2:30 PM Sunday, January 28 MAIN BOWLING CENTER 513 SOUTH MAIN STREET GREENSBURG, PA 15601

\$5.00 per person—Bring a friend!

Price includes bowling, shoe rental, pizza & drinks.

RSVP to the church office no later than

Sunday, January 21, 2024.

\_\_\_\_\_

#### YOUTH / FAMILY BOWLING PARTY

NAME		
Number of Tickets	x \$5.00 =	