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.

THE TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 13, 2024 8:15 AM and 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 "Voluntary in D" (Marc Antoine Charpentier, 1634-1704)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

The assembly 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

H Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The presiding minister may lead one of the following or another prayer of preparation.

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 or stands. 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.

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.

HYMN "Rise Up, O Saints of God" #669

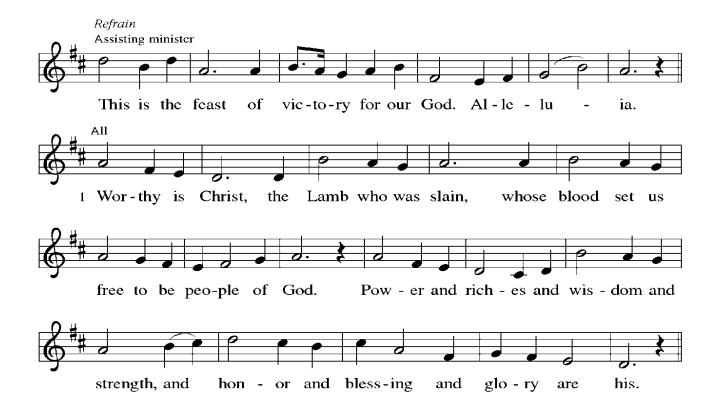
- 1 Rise up, O saints of God!
 From vain ambitions turn;
 Christ rose triumphant that your hearts with nobler zeal might burn.
- 2 Speak out, O saints of God! Despair engulfs earth's frame; as heirs of God's baptismal grace, the word of hope proclaim.
- 3 Rise up, O saints of God! The kingdom's task embrace; redress sin's cruel consequence; give justice larger place.

- 4 Give heed, O saints of God!
 Creation cries in pain;
 stretch forth your hand of healing now,
 with love the weak sustain.
- 5 Commit your hearts to seek the paths which Christ has trod; and, quickened by the Spirit's pow'r, rise up, O saints of God!

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.**

This Is the Feast





Prayer of the Day

The presiding minister leads the prayer of the day.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

Almighty and ever-living God, increase in us your gift of faith, that, forsaking what lies behind and reaching out to what lies ahead, we may follow the way of your commandments and receive the crown of everlasting joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

The assembly is seated.

WORD

First Reading

Amos 5:6-7, 10-15

⁶Seek the Lord and live, or he will break out against the house of Joseph like fire, and it will devour Bethel, with no one to quench it.

⁷Ah, you that turn justice to wormwood, and bring righteousness to the ground!

¹⁰They hate the one who reproves in the gate, and they abhor the one who speaks the truth.

¹¹Therefore because you trample on the poor and take from them levies of grain,

you have built houses of hewn stone, but you shall not live in them;

you have planted pleasant vineyards, but you shall not drink their wine.

¹²For I know how many are your transgressions, and how great are your sins—

you who afflict the righteous, who take a bribe, and push aside the needy in the gate.

¹³Therefore the prudent will keep silent in such a time; for it is an evil time.

¹⁴Seek good and not evil, that you may live; and so the Lord, the God of h

and so the Lord, the God of hosts, will be with you, just as you have said.

¹⁵Hate evil and love good, and establish justice in the gate;

it may be that the Lord, the God of hosts, will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.

The Word of the Lord.

R/Thanks be to God!

Psalm 90:12-17

(Read Responsively)

- ¹²So teach us to num- | ber our days that we may apply our | hearts to wisdom.
- ¹³Return, O Lord; how long | will you tarry? Be gracious | to your servants.
- ¹⁴Satisfy us by your steadfast love | in the morning; so shall we rejoice and be glad | all our days.
- ¹⁵Make us glad as many days as you af- | flicted us and as many years as we suf- | fered adversity.
- ¹⁶Show your ser- | vants your works, and your splendor | to their children.
- ¹⁷May the graciousness of the Lord our God | be upon us; prosper the work of our hands; pros- | per our handiwork.

Second Reading: Hebrews 4:12-16

¹²Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. ¹³And before him no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account.

¹⁴Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. ¹⁵For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

The Word of the Lord.

R/Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia. Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Alleluia.

Gospel Mark 10: 17-31

P: The Holy Gospel according to Mark the tenth chapter. R/ Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁷As [Jesus] was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" ¹⁸Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. ¹⁹You know the commandments: 'You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honor your father and mother.'" ²⁰He said to him, "Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth." ²¹Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, "You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." ²²When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

²³Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" ²⁴And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." ²⁶They were greatly astounded and said to one another, "Then who can be saved?" ²⁷Jesus looked at them and said, "For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible."

²⁸Peter began to say to him, "Look, we have left everything and followed you." ²⁹Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, ³⁰who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. ³¹But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first."

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

Sermon

HYMN "O God of Every Nation"

#713

- O God of ev'ry nation, of ev'ry race and land, redeem your whole creation with your almighty hand; where hate and fear divide us and bitter threats are hurled, in love and mercy guide us and heal our strife-torn world.
- 2 From search for wealth and power and scorn of truth and right, from trust in bombs that shower destruction through the night, from pride of race and station and blindness to your way, deliver ev'ry nation, eternal God, we pray.

- I Lord, strengthen all who labor that all may find release from fear of rattling saber, from dread of war's increase; when hope and courage falter, Lord, let your voice be heard; with faith that none can alter, your servants undergird.
- 4 Keep bright in us the vision of days when war shall cease, when hatred and division give way to love and peace, till dawns the morning glorious when truth and love shall reign, and Christ shall rule victorious o'er all the world's domain.

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

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.

Challenged by God's Word in Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and the whole creation.

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

The presiding minister concludes the prayers with these words. Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in the saving grace you freely give, both now and forever.

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.

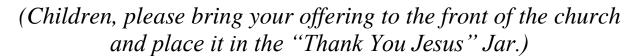
The assembly is seated.

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.



Offertory

8:15 "Largo" (Henri Eccles, 1670-1742)

10:45 "Christ, Who Was Before the World Began" (Brenda Portman)

Christ, who was before the world began; Christ with God, as all things came to be; Christ in ev'ry atom, ev'ry span of love and light across eternity; you took on our humanity; you walked the shores of Galilee. You healed the blind and set the captive free, and still you walk with us through history.

Christ, we are your people gathered here, holding earth's near future in our hands. Needs are great, but good news draws us near with dreams of justice, love's sweet providence. Come set hearts at liberty and give our faith vitality. Help us to serve, in peace and confidence, as faithful stewards of your covenant.

Christ the hope of generations past. Christ as yet our compass, star, and guide; Christ, who summons us to feast and fast by which the greatest love is multiplied: you pour out grace unsparingly. You ask us to live daringly. Teach us to answer a clear "Amen!" and through your church, may we be glorified.

Offertory Response:

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful Offering Song



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 presiding minister greets the assembly and invites all present to give thanks.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

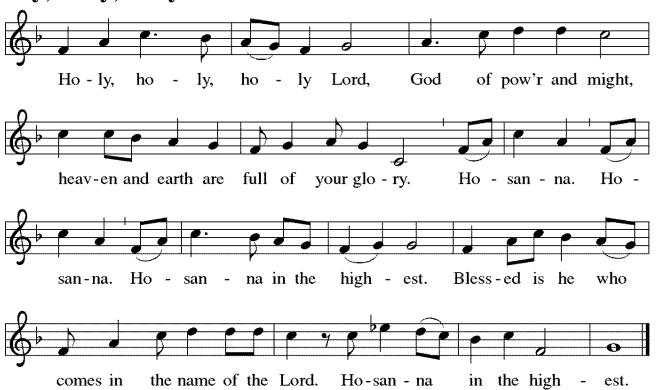
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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



Thanksgiving at the Table

The presiding minister continues, using one of the following.

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 risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread. Come, taste, and see that the Lord is good.

COMMUNION

All baptized 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.
- For those who need gluten free or grape juice, please tell the Pastor or assistant during the distribution.
- Cups can be placed in the trays 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.

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.

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.

Gracious God, in this meal you have drawn us to your heart and nourished us at your table with food and drink, the body and blood of Christ. Now send us forth to be your people in the world, and to proclaim your truth this day and evermore, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Blessing

The presiding minister proclaims God's blessing.

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Hymn "Let Justice Flow like Streams" #717

- 1 Let justice flow like streams of sparkling water, pure, enabling growth, refreshing life, abundant, cleansing, sure.
- 2 Let righteousness roll on as others' cares we heed, an ever-flowing stream of faith translated into deed.

3 So may God's plumb line, straight, define our measure true, and justice, right, and peace pervade this world our whole life through.

Dismissal
Go in peace. Christ is with you.
Thanks be to God.

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BLESSED TO BLESS

SERVING TODAY:

LECTORS are Liz Rowe and Joan Orr.

WORSHIP ASSISTANT is Carolyn Hanzel.

SERVING IN OCTOBER:

ALTAR GUILD for October includes Kim Woodley.

PRAYER CONCERNS:

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER this week Brandie, Suzy, Terry, Cullen, Doug, Gavin, Dennis, Connie, Larry, Joanne, Marie, Jean, Kelly, Bob, Ian, Becky, Marcee, Todd, David, Reece, Pat, Rachel, Daniel, Jessica and her family, Brenda, Amber, Jenny, Jon, Lilly, Pat, Elmer, Rachel, Kim, Shaun, Nancy, Keith, and all those affected by the recent hurricanes.

THE ALTAR FLOWERS are given in memory of the Rev. Dr. and Mrs. William F. Pfeifer, Jr. by their children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

THE CHANCEL FLOWERS are given in memory of Albert and Alberta Druschel, John, and William Druschel by their 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.

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.

Saved by Christ and guided by the Holy Spirit we share God's love, through word and deed, in service to all of God's Children

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

THANKS to Pastor Robert Hawk for leading us in Word and Sacrament today.

NOISY OFFERING Lutheran World Relief – Ukraine Collected \$115.00

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE last Sunday was 78.

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

CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST The sign-up calendar and instructions are on the table in the narthex. Please sign up for a Sunday.

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

BIBLE STUDY Monday, 1:30 PM and 6:00 PM.

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).

STEWARDSHIP Wednesday, 6:30 PM.

FOOD BANK DISTRIBUTION is this Thursday. Assistance is needed around 7:30 AM to help with the set-up and the need for assistance increases at 8:00 AM to unload the truck and prepare for distribution. If you can lend a hand on Thursday morning, your effort will be greatly appreciated.

HANDBELL CHOIR Thursday, 6:15 PM.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE Friday, October 18.

BIBLE & BOOK DISTRIBUTION at both services October 20.

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.

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

RUTH CIRCLE plans to assemble Disaster Relief Buckets in November. Ten buckets of cleaning supplies will be delivered to the UMC distribution center in Cranberry.

The congregation can help with monetary donations to purchase the required items. Checks can be written to FELC, with Disaster Buckets on the memo line.

All women are welcome to participate in Ruth projects, fellowship and, of course, delicious desserts. Meetings are held the 2nd Thursday of the month at 7 pm.

God's Work Our Hands

Stewardship Snippets

Mark 10:24b, 25 –Jesus said to them again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the Kingdom of God."

When he talks about money, Jesus frequently uses words of warning. Why does wealth hinder rich people from entering the Kingdom of God? How are you managing? How can we, as steward-disciples, do better?

THE PARABLES OF JESUS



Interested in Jesus' teaching through parables? Join the conversation as we explore some of Jesus' most interesting and challenging teachings.

You have two opportunities each month to join. We will gather at 1:30 PM and 6:00 PM on October 14, November 18, and December 16. Hope to see you there!



Lutheran Disaster Response: Hurricane Helene

Hurricane Helene hit the coast of Florida as a devastating Category 4 hurricane and moved inland as a tropical storm through the southeastern United States. Millions are without power as heavy rains continue to fall, causing dangerous flooding and landslides, as well as downed trees and power lines.

Wherever this storm goes, Lutheran Disaster Response will be there.



Scan the QR code to give today.

You can also give through the church, mark your offering as LDR – Hurricane Response

By giving to Lutheran Disaster Response, you make it possible for the ELCA to act quickly after disasters such

as Hurricane Helene and remain for as long as the recovery takes.

"You cause your wonders to be remembered; you are gracious and full of compassion."

Psalm 111:4

Women of the ELCA

Southwestern PA Synod - Districts #3 & 4

Fall Meeting - October 19, 2024

Zion's Lutheran Church 140 South Pennsylvania Avenue, Greensburg, PA 15601

Speaker: Natalie Reese Westmoreland Cleanways and Recycling

8:45 am Registration & Refreshments 9:30 am Greetings and Introduction 9:30 am Worship Service 12:00 noon Lunch (luncheon fee \$10.00)

Here's a chance help Mother Earth to deal with some of the problems we keep giving her. Ideas and practical information on how to dispose and recycle the avalanche of "stuff" that piles up in our homes.

Giving Opportunities

- Regular offerings will be split between WELCA SWPA and WELCA Churchwide
- In-kind gifts and Love Offering for 2024 Designated Outreacks
 St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Evans City's "After School Program"

Please telephone or text message your reservation to: Arleen Hawk 14 Windihill Drive, Greensburg, PA 15601 Telephone: 724-822-0828

e-mail achawk2@gmail.com

Your Telephone Number	Congregation
Address	
Name	

If you prefer to mail your reservation	on, fill in the reservation form below, mail it to Arleen Hawk



HARVEST HOME SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20

The First Family will celebrate Harvest Home on Sunday, October 20 at both worship services. Cornstalks and pumpkins will adorn the sanctuary, and you are asked to bring canned goods and food staples to church. Your gifts will help in our Food Pantry with providing food to the needy in our area. "Now thank we all our God"!

Immediately following the 10:45 AM service, we will gather in the Fellowship Hall for a lunch. The menu includes:

Slider Sandwiches, Chips, Apple Dumplings / Ice Cream Lemonade/Coffee/Tea

Use the reservation form below for the lunch or you may call the church office.

Reservations are requested by **October 13. 2024.** All are welcome!

Make sure to mark your calendar and come celebrate the Reformation!	
Name	_

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

Number Attending:_____