

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.

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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.

REFORMATION SUNDAY

October 29, 2023
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 **Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee**
(Beethoven, arr. Robert Hobby)

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 ✝ 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.

One of the following or another confession is prayed.

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 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.

HYMN “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

#504

**1 A mighty fortress is our God,
a sword and shield victorious;
he breaks the cruel oppressor's rod
and wins salvation glorious.
The old satanic foe
has sworn to work us woe!
With craft and dreadful might
he arms himself to fight.
On earth he has no equal.**

**2 No strength of ours can match his might!
We would be lost, rejected.
But now a champion comes to fight,
whom God himself elected.
You ask who this may be?
The Lord of hosts is he!
Christ Jesus, mighty Lord,
God's only Son, adored.
He holds the field victorious.**

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.

Canticle of Praise

Assisting minister



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

All



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 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.

Gracious Father, we pray for your holy catholic church. Fill it with all truth and peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in anything it is amiss, reform it; where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in need, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it; for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

WORD

First Reading **Jeremiah 31:31-34**

³¹The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was married to them, says the LORD. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

The Word of the Lord.

R/Thanks be to God!

Psalm 46

¹God is our ref- | uge and strength,
a very present | help in trouble.

²**Therefore we will not fear, though the | earth be moved,
and though the mountains shake in the depths | of the sea;**

³though its waters | rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble | with its tumult.

⁴**There is a river whose streams make glad the cit- | y of God,
the holy habitation of | the Most High.**

⁵God is in the midst of the city; it shall | not be shaken;
God shall help it at the | break of day.

⁶**The nations rage, and the | kingdoms shake;
God speaks, and the earth | melts away.**

⁷The LORD of | hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob | is our stronghold.

⁸**Come now, regard the works | of the LORD,
what desolations God has brought up- | on the earth;**

⁹behold the one who makes war to cease in | all the world;
who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the | shields
with fire.

¹⁰**“Be still, then, and know that | I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted | in the
earth.”**

¹¹The LORD of | hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob | is our stronghold.

Second Reading: **Romans 3:19-28**

¹⁹Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰For “no human being will be justified in the sight of God” by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

²¹But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, ²²the righteousness

of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴they are now justified by God's grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in divine forbearance God had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶it was to prove at the present time that God is righteous and that God justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.

²⁷Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

The Word of the Lord.

R/Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia.* If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free. *Alleluia.

Gospel

John 8:31-36

P: The Holy Gospel according to John.

R/ Glory to you, O Lord.

³¹Jesus said to the Judeans who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." ³³They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free'?"

³⁴Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶"So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."

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

Youth Sermon (10:45 AM)

Sermon

HYMN “The Church’s One Foundation” #654

- 1 The church's one foundation
is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
she is his new creation
by water and the word.
From heav'n he came and sought her
to be his holy bride;
with his own blood he bought her,
and for her life he died.**
- 2 Elect from ev'ry nation,
yet one o'er all the earth,
her charter of salvation
one Lord, one faith, one birth:
one holy name she blesses,
partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses,
with ev'ry grace endued.**
- 3 Though with a scornful wonder
this world sees her oppressed,
by schisms rent asunder,
by heresies distressed,
yet saints their watch are keeping;
their cry goes up: "How long?"
And soon the night of weeping
shall be the morn of song.**

**4 Through toil and tribulation
and tumult of her war,
she waits the consummation
of peace forevermore;
till with the vision glorious
her longing eyes are blest,
and the great church victorious
shall be the church at rest.**

**5 Yet she on earth has union
with God, the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion
with those whose rest is won.
Oh, blessed heav'nly chorus!
Lord, save us by your grace,
that we, like saints before us,
may see you face to face.**

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.

Trusting in the transformative power of God's loving Spirit, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

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

Gracious God, into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your unending love and amazing grace; 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

Offertory

8:15 My Faith Looks Up to Thee (arr. Dale Wood)

10:45 Cantate Domino (Anna Laura Page)

Sing a song of joy to God, alleluia. Make a joyful noise and shout to God!

Offertory Response:

Create in Me a Clean Heart

Offering Song

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923

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Offertory Prayer (in unison)

After the table is set, the assisting minister may lead one of the following or a similar prayer.

Let us pray.

Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior 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.

PREFACE

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

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. 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.

Thanksgiving at the Table

The presiding minister continues, using one of the following or another appropriate form.

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.
You are most holy,
and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish
but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world
to fulfill for us your holy will
and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command,
his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and
ascension,

and the promise of his coming again,
we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty,
not as we ought but as we are able;
we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving
and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants,
and these your own gifts of bread and wine,
so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ
may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace,
and, receiving the forgiveness of sin,
may be formed to live as your holy people
and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

The presiding minister may address the assembly in these or similar words.

The gifts of God for the people of God. Come to the banquet for all is now ready.

COMMUNION

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 empty 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.*

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

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 “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God” #504

3 Though hordes of devils fill the land
all threat'ning to devour us,
we tremble not, unmoved we stand;
they cannot overpow'r us.
Let this world's tyrant rage;
in battle we'll engage!
His might is doomed to fail;
God's judgment must prevail!
One little word subdues him.

**4 God's Word forever shall abide,
no thanks to foes, who fear it;
for God himself fights by our side
with weapons of the Spirit.
Were they to take our house,
goods, honor, child, or spouse,
though life be wrenched away,
they cannot win the day.
The kingdom's ours forever!**

Dismissal
Go in peace. Share the good news.
Thanks be to God.

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BLESSED TO BLESS

SERVING TODAY:

ACOLYTES are Noah Boggs and Nicholas Vuick.

LECTORS are Mark Barnhart and Jeanne Christensen.

WORSHIP ASSISTANT is Rebecca Brunetta.

OCTOBER ALTAR GUILD: Kim Woodley and Sherry Menz.

OCTOBER 8:15 USHERS: John Anderson, Becky Blank, Sue Boggs, and Carolyn Hanzel.

PRAYER CONCERNS:

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER this week Brandie, Suzy, Lois, Terry, Joyce, Cullen, Doug, Gavin, Felicia, Kacie, Dennis, Kim, Pat, Austin, Katie, Baby Jack, Karen, Phil, Dean, Jeff, Jan, Dylan, Judy, Scott, Bruce, Jake, Jayne, Jack, Judy, John and Mary.

THE ALTAR FLOWERS are given in memory of the Rev. Richard H. Flock 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.**

INDEPENDENCE HEALTH SYSTEM (formerly Excelsa 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.

“Be strong and of good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them, for the Lord your God doth go with thee. He will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.”

Deuteronomy 31:6

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

BLESSINGS to Lily Christopoulos and Robbie Jefferson as they receive their First Communion today.

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

CHOIR REHEARSAL 10:00 AM today.

REFORMATION SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON

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

10 COMMANDMENTS BIBLE STUDY Monday, 1:30 and 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).

FELLOWSHIP Wednesday, 6:30 PM.

EXECUTIVE Thursday, 3:30 PM.

HANDBELLS Thursday, 6:15 – 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!

NOISY OFFERING is next Sunday and will be donated to Lutheran Disaster Relief.

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 103.

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY November 5.

PRESCHOOL CHILDREN’S BOOK DRIVE

Members of the Senior Class of 2024 at Seton Hill University are collecting preschool age books in good condition through October 30. **Collection boxes are located in the education building foyer, the narthex at the back of the church, and in the Fellowship Hall.**



**Remember to turn your clocks back
November 4. Standard Time begins
Sunday, November 5!**

The Center for Healthcare Solutions in collaboration with Unity in Community invite you to attend: **A Veterans Suicide Prevention Walk and Human Service Fair** on Friday November 10, 2023, from 10:00 A.M to 3:00 P. M at Westmoreland County Community College, 145 Pavilion Lane, Youngwood, PA, 15697. Registration for the walk begins at 9:00 A.M.

The Walk will commence at 10:00 A.M from the Student Achievement Center, left to the Trail to the Science Center and back to the Center. Human Service Fair to begin directly after. **This is a free event.**

Stewardship Snippets

“So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.” - 1 Thessalonians 2:8

Paul, Silas, and Timothy write these words that embody Jesus’ response to the Pharisees in this week’s gospel. How can we reflect the great commandment as stewards of God’s abundance? What gifts might you bring to share?

The ELCA wants to know what it is to be the church God is calling us to be. But we need YOU. Join us as we seek to discern God's Spirit and work to become the church God is calling us to be. This is Future Church; This is God's Love Made Real. Please take some time to go to <https://lovemadereal.elca.org> to watch a few videos and take a 15-minute survey. Thank you.



GREENSBURG HOLIDAY PARADE – NOV. 18

Our youth will once again be serving hot dogs and our Evangelism Team will be serving hot chocolate at the Holiday Parade on Saturday, November 18 at 4:30 PM.

This is a great opportunity to show Christian welcome and kindness to those in our community. If you are in elementary school, middle school, or high school, jump on this opportunity to live out your faith. Likewise, all members of the church are Evangelists, so come and share the warmth of the Gospel as we serve hot chocolate. Everyone needs to meet at 2:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall to get things ready.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS, NOVEMBER 5 AND 19

Brief congregational meetings will precede worship services on November 5 and 19 for the purpose of nominating and electing congregation council members.

On November 5, nominations will be received. Balloting and/or elections will follow two weeks later at the Sunday, November 19 meeting.