

# **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](mailto: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-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

November 10, 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

**8:15** “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”

(arr. Gregory Hamilton)

**10:45** “Hopeful Joy” (Daniel Dunmire, horn)

### 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.**

*The assembly stands.*

- 1    Take my life, that I may be  
consecrated, Lord, to thee;  
take my moments and my days;  
let them flow in ceaseless praise.**
  
- 2    Take my hands and let them move  
at the impulse of thy love;  
take my feet and let them be  
swift and beautiful for thee.**
  
- 3    Take my voice and let me sing  
always, only, for my King;  
take my lips and let them be  
filled with messages from thee.**
  
- 4    Take my silver and my gold,  
not a mite would I withhold;  
take my intellect and use  
ev'ry pow'r as thou shall choose.**
  
- 5    Take my will and make it thine,  
it shall be no longer mine.  
Take my heart, it is thine own,  
it shall be thy royal throne.**
  
- 6    Take my love; my Lord, I pour  
at thy feet, its treasure store;  
take myself, and I will be  
ever, only, all for thee.**

**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.*

**O God, you show forth your almighty power chiefly by reaching out to us in mercy. Grant us the fullness of your grace, strengthen our trust in your promises, and bring all the world to share in the treasures that come through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior, and Lord.**

**Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## WORD

### First Reading

### 1 Kings 17:8-16

<sup>8</sup>The word of the Lord came to [Elijah,] saying, <sup>9</sup>“Go now to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and live there; for I have commanded a widow there to feed you.” <sup>10</sup>So he set out and went to Zarephath. When he came to the gate of the town, a widow was there gathering sticks; he called to her and said, “Bring me a little water in a vessel, so that I may drink.” <sup>11</sup>As she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, “Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand.” <sup>12</sup>But she said, “As the Lord your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of meal in a jar, and a little oil in a jug; I am now gathering a couple of sticks, so that I may go home and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die.” <sup>13</sup>Elijah said to her, “Do not be afraid; go and do as you have said; but first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterwards make something for yourself and your son. <sup>14</sup>For thus says the Lord the

God of Israel: The jar of meal will not be emptied and the jug of oil will not fail until the day that the Lord sends rain on the earth.”<sup>15</sup> She went and did as Elijah said, so that she as well as he and her household ate for many days.<sup>16</sup> The jar of meal was not emptied, neither did the jug of oil fail, according to the word of the Lord that he spoke by Elijah.

The Word of the Lord.

**R/Thanks be to God!**

**Psalm 146**      *(Read Responsively)*

<sup>1</sup>Hal- | lelujah!

Praise the Lord, | O my soul!

<sup>2</sup>**I will praise the Lord as long | as I live;**

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

<sup>3</sup>Put not your | trust in rulers,

in mortals in whom there | is no help.

<sup>4</sup>**When they breathe their last, they re- | turn to earth,**

**and in that day | their thoughts perish.**

<sup>5</sup>Happy are they who have the God of Jacob | for their help,

whose hope is in the | Lord their God;

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

**who keeps promis- | es forever;**

<sup>7</sup>who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to | those who hunger.

The Lord sets the | captive free.

<sup>8</sup>**The Lord opens the eyes of the blind; the Lord lifts up those who | are bowed down;**

**the Lord | loves the righteous.**

<sup>9</sup>The Lord cares | for the stranger;

the Lord sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way | of the wicked.

<sup>10</sup>**The Lord shall | reign forever,**

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

## **Second Reading: Hebrews 9:24-28**

<sup>24</sup>Christ did not enter a sanctuary made by human hands, a mere copy of the true one, but he entered into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. <sup>25</sup>Nor was it to offer himself again and again, as the high priest enters the Holy Place year after year with blood that is not his own; <sup>26</sup>for then he would have had to suffer again and again since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the age to remove sin by the sacrifice of himself. <sup>27</sup>And just as it is appointed for mortals to die once, and after that the judgment, <sup>28</sup>so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin, but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

The Word of the Lord.

**R/Thanks be to God!**

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

***Alleluia.* The Lord raises up the poor from the dust, to make them inherit a seat of honor. *Alleluia.***

**Gospel**

**Mark 12: 38-44**

P: The Holy Gospel according to Mark the twelfth chapter.

**R/ Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>38</sup>As [Jesus] taught, he said, “Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, <sup>39</sup>and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets! <sup>40</sup>They devour widows’ houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation.”



<sup>41</sup>He sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. <sup>42</sup>A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. <sup>43</sup>Then he called his disciples and said to them, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. <sup>44</sup>For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.”

P/The Gospel of the Lord.

R/ Praise to you, O Christ.

## Youth Sermon

### Sermon

**HYMN      “Blessed Assurance”      #638**

- 1      Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!  
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!  
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,  
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.**

#### *Refrain*

**This is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Savior, all the day long:  
this is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Savior all the day long.**

- 2      Perfect submission, perfect delight,  
visions of rapture now burst on my sight;  
angels descending bring from above  
echoes of mercy, whispers of love. *Refrain***

- 3      Perfect submission, all is at rest;  
I in my Savior am happy and blest,  
watching and waiting, looking above,  
filled with his goodness, lost in his love. *Refrain***

## 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.*

Rooted in God's abundant love for the world, let us pray for our neighbors, the church, and all of creation.

*At each petition,*  
**Merciful God, receive our prayer.**

*The presiding minister concludes the prayers with these words.*  
We offer our prayers to you, gracious God, trusting in your boundless love for all that you have made, 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**

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](http://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

**8:15** “Lament” (arr. Hal Hopson)

**10:45** “Build a Longer Table”

(French carol, arr. John Helgen; Text, David Bjorlin)

Build a longer table, not a higher wall, feeding those who hunger, making room for all. Feasting together, stranger turns to friend. Christ breaks walls to pieces; false divisions end.

Build a safer refuge, not a larger jail; where the weak find shelter, mercy will not fail. For any place where justice is denied, Christ will breach the jail wall, freeing all inside.

Build a broader doorway, not a longer fence. Love protects all people, sparing no expense. When we embrace compassion more than fear, Christ tears down our fences. All are welcome here.

When we lived as exiles, refugees abroad, Christ became our doorway to the reign of God. So must our tables welcome those who roam. None can be excluded; all must find a home.

## 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.

## 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.**

## 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

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

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. Come to the Banquet for all is now ready.

## 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.*

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      “Oh, Happy Day When We Shall Stand”      #441**

- 1 Oh, happy day when we shall stand  
amid the heav'nly throng;  
and sing with hosts from ev'ry land  
the new celestial song,  
the new celestial song.**
- 2 Oh, blessed day when Christ shall come  
and show himself as Lord,  
and thousands meet in their new home  
which Jesus has prepared,  
which Jesus has prepared.**
- 3 Oh, what a mighty rushing flood  
of joy and love and peace  
will roll down over us with good  
and blessedness and grace,  
and blessedness and grace.**
- 4 O Lord, your grace is ev'rything;  
your love has made us free  
to stand among the saints and sing  
the glory that we see,  
the glory that we see.**

Dismissal

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**Thanks be to God.**

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**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**

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING NOVEMBER 17**

Brief congregational meetings will follow worship services on November 17 for the purpose of electing congregation council members.

**BLESSED TO BLESS**

**SERVING TODAY:**

**LECTORS** are Liz Rowe and Jeanne Christensen.

**WORSHIP ASSISTANTS** are Carolyn Hanzel and Tawnya Combs.

**SERVING IN NOVEMBER:**

**ALTAR GUILD** for November includes Kim Woodley and Shirley Huls.

## **PRAYER CONCERNS:**

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER** this week Brandie, Suzy, Terry, Cullen, Doug, Gavin, Dennis, Kim, Shaun, Nancy, Keith, Levi, Pat, Rachel, Pam, Jack, Larry, Connie, Hollie, Linda, Grace, and Marcee.

**THE ALTAR FLOWERS** are given in memory of Earl Poole by his family.

**THE CHANCEL FLOWERS** are given in memory of Jeff Cobb by Mom and Dad

**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.

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION:**

**NOISY OFFERING Lutheran World Relief – Palestine Collected \$135.00**

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY** to Helen Flinner who turns **100** on November 18th. Please help her celebrate by sending her a card.

**WORSHIP ATTENDANCE** last Sunday was 83.

**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.

**COUNCIL** Tuesday, 6:00 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).

**CHRISTIAN OUTREACH** Wednesday, 6:30 PM.

**HANDBELL CHOIR** Thursday, 6:15 PM.

**RUTH CIRCLE** will meet on Thursday November 14 at 7:00 PM in the church parlor. Ladies of the congregation, please join us for fellowship, and always delicious dessert.

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE** Monday, November 18.

**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.

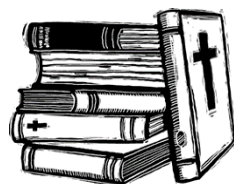
A **NURSERY** is available for children to use on the second floor of the Education Building, down the hall from the Library.

## Stewardship Snippets

**Mark 12:43** –Then Jesus called his disciples and said to them, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury."

*One measure of a gift's true value is the degree to which one sacrifices to give it. What do the gifts you now offer God in time, talent and treasure really cost you? How might you prayerfully improve?*

## THE PARABLES OF JESUS



**New Bible  
Study Series**

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 November 18 (The Good Samaritan) and December 16. Hope to see you there!

## ANGEL TREE 2024



It is that time of the year to donate for the Angel Tree! We will be accepting gift cards for the children of our Food Bank families. Angels will be available the first Sunday of Advent, December 1.

Donations of \$25-dollar gift cards for Target or Walmart will be accepted until **Monday, December 15, 2024**.

Our Sunday School students will be making the Angels again this year. Please choose an angel from the Christmas Tree and attach the gift card to the angel and place it in the offering plate or bring it to the church office. If you would like to keep the angel, place the gift card in an envelope, write “ANGEL TREE” on the outside of the envelope and place it in the offering plates or drop it off in the church office. Thank you!

### MUSICAL EVENTS AT ZION’S LUTHERAN CHURCH

140 South Pennsylvania Avenue  
Greensburg, PA 15601

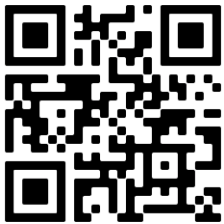
Thursday, Dec. 5, 2024:	Luminary Night	6 – 8 PM
Sunday, Dec. 22, 2024:	Organ & Piano Concert of Christmas Music	2 PM
Sunday, Feb. 2, 2025:	Subito String Quintet	2 PM
Sunday, Mar. 30, 2025:	Daphne Alderson and the St. Michael Band	2 PM
Sunday, May 5, 2025:	Academy String Quartet and Bassoon	2 PM



## **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.**

## **GREENSBURG HOLIDAY PARADE – NOV. 23**



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 23 at 5:00 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 3:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall to get things ready.

**First Lutheran will again participate in OPERATION REINDEER.**



Your gifts should be new, unboxed, and unwrapped. Operation Reindeer is Mental Health of America's annual drive to provide Christmas gifts for Westmoreland County residents at Torrance State Hospital, a long-term facility for psychiatric patients. These items make being away from family at Christmastime easier for patients who struggle with mental illnesses. Please bring them to the church office by Monday, December 4. Thank you!

**Please, no items with glass, belts, razors, or other safety hazards!**

**A COMPLETE WISH LIST IS IN THE NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER.**

**THRIVENT FINANCIAL ACTION TEAM  
SUPPLY ITEMS – SOCKS, UNDERWEAR AND TOYS**

**November 1 – December 9**

The Westmoreland County Children's Bureau makes arrangements for children from birth to 18 years of age in family emergencies. These children are often removed from their homes with only the clothes they are wearing and little if any personal belongings, such as a toy or a favorite stuffed animal. The Bureau maintains a "children's closet" for those under their supervision. The closet is currently low on supply items, namely children's socks, underwear, and toys.

Thrivent Financial Action Team is collecting new toys, children's socks and underwear for the children under the care of the Westmoreland County Children's Bureau. One way you can help these children in need is to donate children's socks, underwear, and toys. **Collection boxes are located in the education building foyer, the narthex at the back of the church, and in the Fellowship Hall.** If you wish to make a monetary contribution, please make checks payable to "Westmoreland Children First" and place in an envelope.



## HELP US DECORATE OUR “NATIVE AMERICAN CHRISTMAS TREE”

Native American children need our help this Christmas. The Northern Cheyenne and Crow Reservation in Montana is in desperate need of warm clothing for their children. Every winter, Native Americans face weather conditions that could lead to hypothermia. Fifty nine percent of homes are substandard: lacking water, electricity, insulation, or a sewage system.



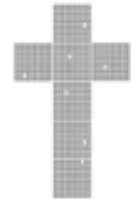
This year our “Christmas Tree” will be transformed into a “Native American Christmas Tree” Please help us decorate the “Native American Christmas Tree” by purchasing new children’s & youth's hats, gloves, snow pants, and jackets. Curtis from Saint Labre Indian School stated they have 400 students from infants to high school students who are in need. **You may place your purchases on the tree, under the tree or bring them to the church office.**

**December 22** is the last day to bring hats, gloves, snow pants and jackets to decorate our Native American Christmas Tree. We will gather all of our blessed hats, gloves, snow pants, and jackets. They will be mailed to Curtis (who is in charge of Donor Relations) in Ashland, Montana. He will distribute our winter wear to the children of the Northern Cheyenne and Crow Reservation.

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

*Psalm 111:4*

BECAUSE OF  
GOD'S GREAT MERCY  
*a stewardship program for our congregation*



*"...in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light."  
– 1 Peter 2:9*

God has made us God's own people "in order that" we might proclaim through word and deed all that God has done in our lives. We do that individually as we live our faith in our daily lives. We also do that collectively in our congregation.

Our congregation proclaims God's mighty acts within our walls through worship, through Christian education for our children and youth, through the many groups that meet to learn and serve. Our congregation proclaims God's mighty acts in our community as we make a difference for good in the lives of people around us who are in need. Our congregation proclaims God's mighty acts across our country and around the world as we support important ministries that are making a difference near and far.

Your giving to our congregation makes all of this possible. Because of you, we "proclaim the mighty acts of him" who called us out of darkness into his marvelous light.