

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-SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

November 17, 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

“Lament”

(Sergei Rachmaninov, 1873-1943, arr. Hal Hopson)

10:45

“My Soul Proclaims Your Goodness”

(arr. David Cherwien)

Jennifer Kist, violin

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 When peace like a river attendeth my way,
when sorrows like sea billows roll,
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,
it is well, it is well with my soul.**

Refrain

**It is well (it is well)
with my soul, (with my soul,)
it is well, it is well with my soul.**

**2 Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
let this blest assurance control,
that Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
and has shed his own blood for my soul. *Refrain***

**3 He lives--oh, the bliss of this glorious thought;
my sin, not in part, but the whole,
is nailed to his cross and I bear it no more.
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! *Refrain***

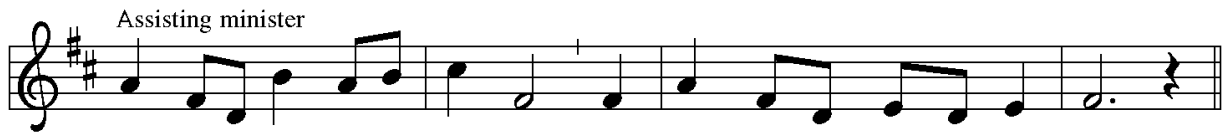
**4 Lord, hasten the day when our faith shall be sight,
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll,
the trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend;
even so it is well with my soul. *Refrain***

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.**

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.

Almighty God, your sovereign purpose brings salvation to birth. Give us faith to be steadfast amid the tumults of this world, trusting that your kingdom comes and your will is done through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior, and Lord. Amen.

The assembly is seated.

WORD

First Reading

Daniel 12:1-3

¹“At that time Michael, the great prince, the protector of your people, shall arise. There shall be a time of anguish, such as has never occurred since nations first came into existence. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone who is found written in the book. ²Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. ³Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.”

The Word of the Lord.

R/Thanks be to God!

Psalm 16

(Read Responsively)

¹Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you;

I have said to the Lord, “You are my Lord, my good above all other.”

²**All my delight is in the godly that are in the land,
upon those who are noble among the people.**

³But those who run after other gods
shall have their troubles multiplied.

⁴**I will not pour out drink offerings to such gods,
never take their names upon my lips.**

⁵O Lord, you are my portion and my cup;
it is you who uphold my lot.

⁶**My boundaries enclose a pleasant land;
indeed, I have a rich inheritance.**

⁷I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel;
my heart teaches me night after night.

⁸**I have set the Lord always before me;
because God is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken. R**

⁹My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices;
my body also shall rest in hope.

¹⁰**For you will not abandon me to the grave,
nor let your holy one see the pit.**

¹¹You will show me the path of life;

in your presence there is fullness of joy, and in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Second Reading: Hebrews 10:11-25

¹¹Every priest stands day after day at his service, offering again and again the same sacrifices that can never take away sins. ¹²But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, “he sat down at the right hand of God,” ¹³and since then has been waiting “until his enemies would be made a footstool for his feet.” ¹⁴For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are sanctified. [¹⁵And the Holy Spirit also testifies to us, for after saying,

¹⁶“This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord:

I will put my laws in their hearts,
and I will write them on their minds,”

¹⁷he also adds,

“I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.”

¹⁸Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.]

¹⁹Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), ²¹and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²²let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. ²⁴And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, ²⁵not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

The Word of the Lord.

R/Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia.* Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to stand before the Son of Man. *Alleluia.

Gospel

Mark 13:1-8

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

R/ Glory to you, O Lord.

¹As [Jesus] came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, “Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!” ²Then Jesus asked him, “Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down.”

³When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, ⁴“Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?” ⁵Then Jesus began to say to them, “Beware that no one leads you astray. ⁶Many will come in my name and say, ‘I am he!’ and they will lead many astray. ⁷When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. ⁸For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birth pangs.”

P/The Gospel of the Lord.

R/ Praise to you, O Christ.

Youth Sermon

Sermon

HYMN “My Lord, What a Morning”

#438

Refrain

**My Lord, what a morning;
my Lord, what a morning;
oh, my Lord, what a morning,
when the stars begin to fall.**

**1 You will hear the trumpet sound,
to wake the nations underground,
looking to my God's right hand,
when the stars begin to fall. *Refrain***

**2 You will hear the sinner cry,
to wake the nations underground,
looking to my God's right hand,
when the stars begin to fall. *Refrain***

**3 You will hear the Christian shout,
to wake the nations underground,
looking to my God's right hand,
when the stars begin to fall. *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 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 “Andantino” (Gabriel Faure, 1845-1924, arr. Hal Hopson)

10:45 “My Heart Shall Sing” (Rory Cooney, arr. Karen Marrolli)

My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn. Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn. The loud shall fall silent, the silent shall speak, the weak be made mighty, the mighty made weak. When tyrants shake with wrath, O lift us, meek and mild, to walk the peaceful path to the Holy Child. The unseen shall be seen, the unheard shall be heard!

Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me, and your mercy will last from the depths of the past to the end of the age to be. Your very name puts the proud to shame, and to those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the strong to fight, for the world is about to turn.

The wealthy you humble. The hungry you fill. The prideful you scatter. The anxious you still. When darkness holds all sway, and the world falls into night, O lead us into day, to the child of light. Disrupt our world! Disturb our souls! Let those in comfort feel affliction! Unsettle all who have ever dwelt secure! Secure the frail in firm conviction!

From the halls of pow’r to the fortress tow’r, not a stone will be left on stone. Let the king beware for your justice tears ev’ry tyrant from his throne. The hungry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can never earn; there are tables spread, ev’ry mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn.

Our hearts cry for healing. Our souls thirst for song. Our hands crave true labor, to vanquish all wrong. When creation burns with scorn, when we hear the drums of hate, remind us love is born in a child we await.

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.

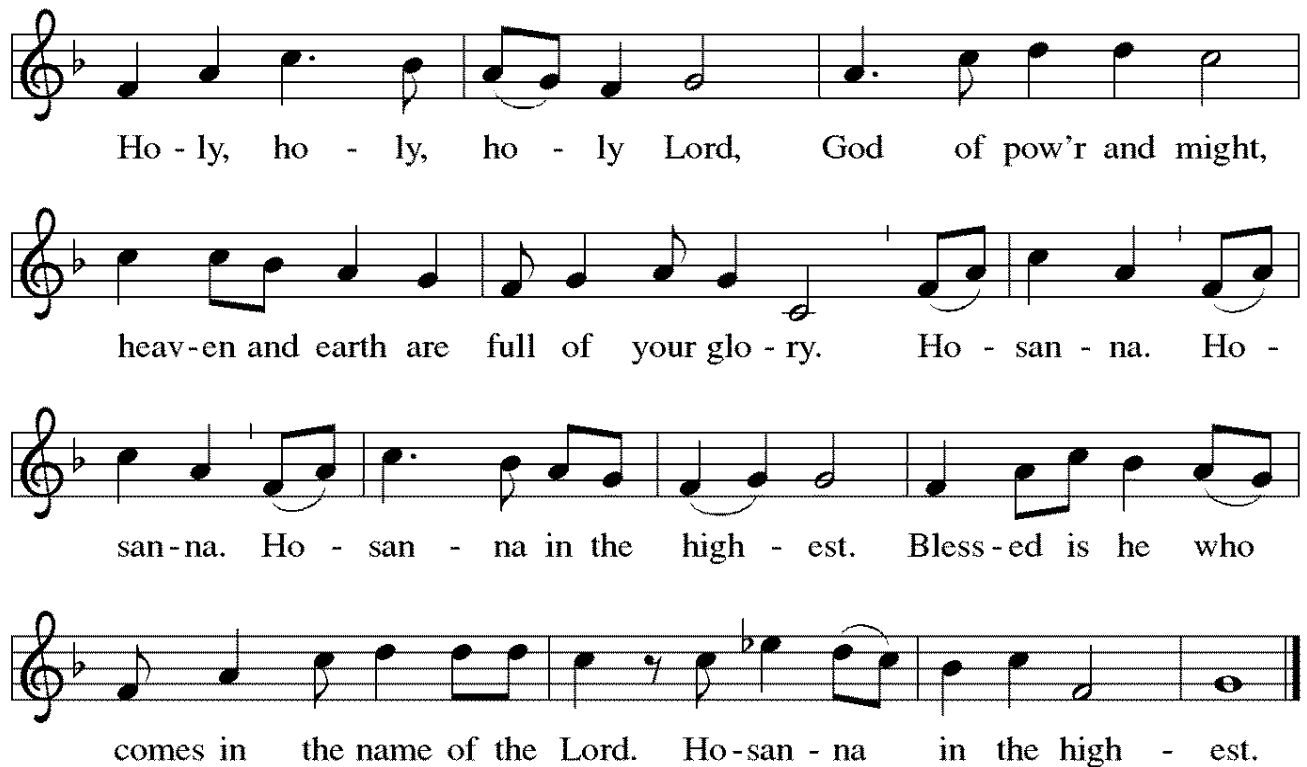
We lift them to the Lord.

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 “O God, Our Help in Ages Past” #632

- 1 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home:**

- 2 Under the shadow of your throne
your saints have dwelt secure;
sufficient is your arm alone,
and our defense is sure.**

- 3 Before the hills in order stood
or earth received its frame,
from everlasting you are God,
to endless years the same.**

- 4 A thousand ages in your sight
are like an evening gone,
short as the watch that ends the night
before the rising sun.**

**5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
bears all our years away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the op'ning day.**

**6 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
still be our guard while troubles last
and our eternal home.**

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 TODAY

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

BLESSED TO BLESS

SERVING TODAY:

LECTORS are Bill Pfeifer and Megan Zobb.

WORSHIP ASSISTANT is Rebecca Brunetta.

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, Shaun, Nancy, Keith, Levi, Pat, Rachel, Pam, Jack, Larry, Connie, Hollie, Linda, Grace, Marcee, April, Cooper and Carol.

THE ALTAR FLOWERS are given in memory of Charles Stephenson and Elizabeth J. Stephenson by Nancy O'Hare.

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:

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 95.

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

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

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE Monday, November 18.

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 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.

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.

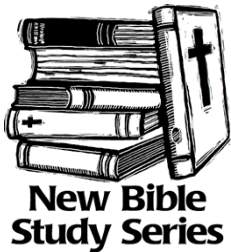
A NURSERY is available for children to use on the second floor of the Education Building, down the hall from the Library.

Stewardship Snippets

Psalm 16:11—You show me the path of life. In your presence there is fullness of joy; in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

As we grow in spiritual maturity, steward/disciples learn ever more deeply the difference between the fleeting, shallow happiness the world offers and the rich, satisfying joy and pleasures of our life in God.

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 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**.

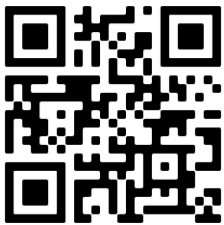
Our Sunday School students will be making the Angels again this year. Please choose an angel from the Christmas Tree and attach the gift card to the angel and place it in the offering plate or bring it to the church office. If you would like to keep the angel, place the gift card in an envelope, write "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!



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 "First Lutheran" and place them 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



Our congregation is a gathering of “therefore” people. We have experienced God’s great mercy. “Therefore”, we work together to proclaim that mercy in the world through both word and deed. So that we can do even more of God’s work, you are encouraged to increase your giving by at least 1/2% of your household income. Below is a chart to help with this.

Income weekly, monthly, or annual	1/2%	1%	2%	3%	4%	5%	10%
\$ 200	\$ 1	\$ 2	\$ 4	\$ 6	\$ 8	\$ 10	\$ 20
\$ 300	\$ 2	\$ 3	\$ 6	\$ 9	\$ 12	\$ 15	\$ 30
\$ 500	\$ 3	\$ 5	\$ 10	\$ 15	\$ 20	\$ 25	\$ 50
\$ 700	\$ 4	\$ 7	\$ 14	\$ 21	\$ 28	\$ 35	\$ 70
\$ 1,000	\$ 5	\$ 10	\$ 20	\$ 30	\$ 40	\$ 50	\$ 100
\$ 1,500	\$ 8	\$ 15	\$ 30	\$ 45	\$ 60	\$ 75	\$ 150
\$ 2,000	\$ 10	\$ 20	\$ 40	\$ 60	\$ 80	\$ 100	\$ 200
\$ 2,500	\$ 13	\$ 25	\$ 50	\$ 75	\$ 100	\$ 125	\$ 250
\$ 3,000	\$ 15	\$ 30	\$ 60	\$ 90	\$ 120	\$ 150	\$ 300
\$ 5,000	\$ 25	\$ 50	\$ 100	\$ 150	\$ 200	\$ 250	\$ 500
\$ 10,000	\$ 50	\$ 100	\$ 200	\$ 300	\$ 400	\$ 500	\$ 1,000
\$ 12,000	\$ 60	\$ 120	\$ 240	\$ 360	\$ 480	\$ 600	\$ 1,200
\$ 20,000	\$ 100	\$ 200	\$ 400	\$ 600	\$ 800	\$ 1,000	\$ 2,000
\$ 50,000	\$ 250	\$ 500	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,500	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,500	\$ 5,000
\$ 100,000	\$ 500	\$ 1,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 10,000

In the mail this coming week you will receive a letter and ways to indicate your giving for the coming year. Please look for the letter and either bring your response to worship next week or mail your response to the church.