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.

CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY

November 24, 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 "The Rejoicing"

(from Royal Fireworks Suite, G.F. Handel,

arr. Hal Hopson)

10:45 "Let All Things Now Living"

(Welsh folk melody, arr. Jason Krug)

FELC Handbell Choir

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.**

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.

HYMN "Lift High the Cross" #660

Refrain

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim till all the world adore his sacred name.

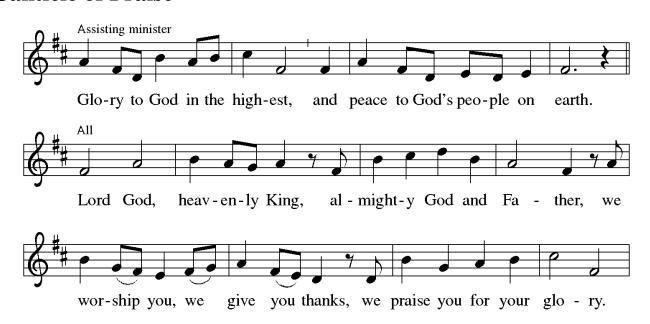
- 1 Come, Christians, follow where our captain trod, our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. *Refrain*
- 2 All newborn servants of the Crucified bear on their brows the seal of him who died. *Refrain*
- 3 O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree, as thou hast promised, draw us all to thee. *Refrain*
- 4 So shall our song of triumph ever be: praise to the Crucified for victory! *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





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, you anointed your beloved Son to be priest and king forever. Grant that all the people of the earth, now divided by the power of sin, may be united by the glorious and gentle rule of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

First Reading Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14

⁹As I watched, thrones were set in place, and an Ancient One took his throne, his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames, and its wheels were burning fire. ¹⁰A stream of fire issued and flowed out from his presence. A thousand thousands served him,

and ten thousand times ten thousand stood attending him.

The court sat in judgment, and the books were opened.

¹³As I watched in the night visions,

I saw one like a human being coming with the clouds of heaven.

And he came to the Ancient One and was presented before him.

¹⁴To him was given dominion and glory and kingship,

that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him.

His dominion is an everlasting dominion that shall not pass away, and his kingship is one that shall never be destroyed.

The Word of the Lord.

R/Thanks be to God!

Psalm 93 (Read Responsively)

¹The Lord is king, robed in majesty; the Lord is robed in majesty and [|] armed with strength.

The Lord has made the world so sure that it can- | not be moved.

²Ever since the world began, your throne has | been established; you are from | everlasting.

³The waters have lifted up, O Lord, the waters have lifted | up their voice;

the waters have lifted up their | pounding waves.

⁴Mightier than the sound of many waters, mightier than the breakers | of the sea,

mightier is the Lord who | dwells on high.

⁵Your testimonies are [|] very sure, and holiness befits your house, O Lord, forever and for- [|] evermore.

Second Reading: Revelation 1:4b-8

^{4b}Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, ⁵and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, ⁶and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

⁷Look! He is coming with the clouds;

every eye will see him,

even those who pierced him;

and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail.

So it is to be. Amen.

⁸"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

The Word of the Lord.

R/Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David. Alleluia.

Gospel John 18:33-37

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

³³Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" ³⁴Jesus answered, "Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?" ³⁵Pilate replied, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?" ³⁶Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here." ³⁷Pilate asked him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice."

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

Youth Sermon

Sermon

TO JESUS CHRIST, OUR SOVEREIGN KING

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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** "Jesus Shall Reign" (arr. Hal Hopson)
- 10:45 "Sing to the Lord A New Song" (Kenneth Kosche)

Sing to the Lord a new song. Oh, sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing to the Lord, bless God's name. Tell of God's salvation from day to day. Declare God's glory among the nations, God's marvelous works among all peoples! Sing praises to the Lord, all the earth!

Offertory Response:



Create in Me a Clean Heart





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.

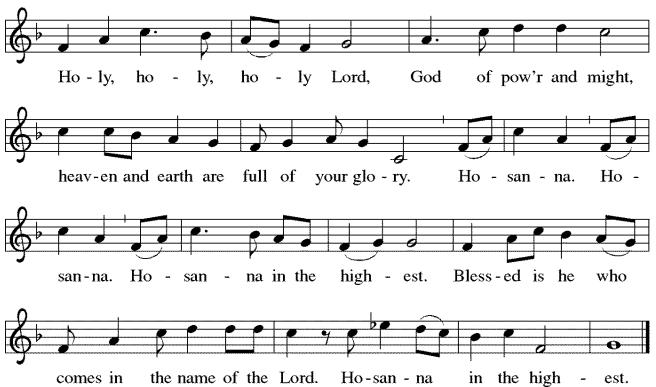
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. You anointed him with the oil of gladness as universal king. He claims dominion over all creation, that he may present to you an eternal and universal kingdom: a kingdom of truth and life, a kingdom of holiness and grace, a kingdom of justice, love, and peace. And so, 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 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 "Come, Thou Almighty King" #408

- 1 Come, thou almighty King, help us thy name to sing; help us to praise; Father all-glorious, o'er all victorious, come and reign over us, Ancient of Days.
- 2 Come, thou incarnate Word, merciful, mighty Lord; our prayer attend.
 Come and thy people bless, and give thy word success, and let thy righteousness on us descend.

- 3 Come, holy Comforter, thy sacred witness bear in this glad hour!
 Thou who almighty art, rule now in ev'ry heart, never from us depart, Spirit of pow'r.
- 4 To thee, great One in Three, eternal praises be hence evermore!
 Thy sov'reign majesty may we in glory see, and to eternity love and adore.

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

BLESSED TO BLESS

SERVING TODAY:

LECTORS are Mark Barnhart and Shirley Huls.

WORSHIP ASSISTANT is Dianna Marusko.

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, Carol, and Chris.

THE ALTAR FLOWERS are given in memory of Arthur Wineman and his parents, Arthur, and Christine, by their family.

THE CHANCEL FLOWERS are given in memory of Lurla Howard by Denis and Rebecca Brunetta and 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.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE last Sunday was 90.

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

STEWARDSHIP, Monday 6:30 PM.

CHRISTIAN ED/YOUTH Tuesday, 6:30 PM.

NEWSLETTER FOLDING Tuesday, November 26.

NO FOOD FROM THE HEART this Wednesday. Lunch will resume Wednesday, December 4.

PROPERTY Wednesday, 6:30 PM.

OFFICE CLOSED for observance of Thanksgiving, Thursday and Friday, November 28 and 29.

NO HANDBELL CHOIR this week.

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!

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.

"He gives power to the faint and Strengthens the powerless." Isaiah 40:29

Stewardship Snippets

Revelation 1:4b– Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come.

As did other New Testament writers, the author of Revelation blesses his readers with "grace" and "peace" of Christ. Truly, if we have Christ's grace and peace in our hearts, we will find true contentment.

NOISY OFFERING next Sunday is for Lutheran World Relief for Palestine. Due to the horrific, ongoing violence in and around Gaza, a severe humanitarian crisis continues to escalate in the Holy Land. The ELCA is walking with many partners in the region, including the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land and Augusta Victoria Hospital, to address the most pressing needs for people in the areas surrounding Gaza, including the West Bank and other occupied territory.

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.

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.



OFFERING ENVELOPES AVAILABLE SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8

2025 offering envelopes will be available in the Narthex beginning Sunday, December 8. You are asked to pick up your envelopes before or after worship, or anytime during the week. Please deliver a box to a shut-in, family member, or neighbor who may not be able to take their box.

Please **DO NOT** use **2025** envelopes before January first as your envelope number may have changed. Offerings received in the church office or postmarked on or before December 31st will be credited as gifts for 2024.

HELP US DECORATE OUR "NATIVE AMERICAN CHRISTMAS TREE"



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.



PLEASE NOTE: The security system has been upgraded. If you have previously accessed the building and armed/disarmed the system, please make sure that you have an access code. Please reach out to Pr. Chris if you have not already received a code, the old code will be discontinued in the near future.

POINSETTIAS



Poinsettias will again decorate our church on Christmas Eve. You are invited to purchase a plant at a cost of \$11.00 and "lend" it to the parish. Plants that are purchased may be removed from the church following the 8:00 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service.

Your purchase may be made "in memory of" or "in honor of" the person(s) of your choosing. Please indicate your preference and return this form with your payment. We must have your order by **Monday**, **December 16.**



Today is Commitment Sunday for our "Because of God's Great Mercy" stewardship program.

All are invited to place your commitment in the offering plate as it passes you during worship.