

**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.

# ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

November 3, 2024

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

#### 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.*

*The service continues with gathering song.*

**HYMN**

**“For All the Saints”**

**#422**

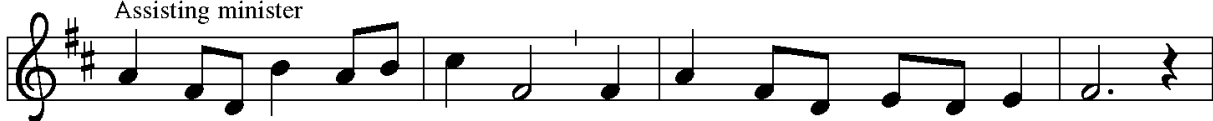
- 1 For all the saints who from their labors rest,  
who thee by faith before the world confessed,  
thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!**
- 2 Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might;  
thou, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight;  
thou, in the darkness drear, their one true light.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!**
- 3 Oh, blest communion, fellowship divine,  
we feebly struggle, they in glory shine;  
yet all are one in thee, for all are thine.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!**
- 4 And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long,  
steals on the ear the distant triumph song,  
and hearts are brave again and arms are strong.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

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, you have knit your people together in one communion in the mystical body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant us grace to follow your blessed saints in lives of faith and commitment, and to know the inexpressible joys you have prepared for those who love you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## WORD

### **First Reading: Isaiah 25:6-9**

<sup>6</sup> On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples  
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,  
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.

<sup>7</sup> And he will destroy on this mountain  
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,  
the sheet that is spread over all nations;

<sup>8</sup> he will swallow up death forever.

Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces,  
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,  
for the Lord has spoken.

<sup>9</sup> It will be said on that day,

Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.

This is the Lord for whom we have waited;  
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

L: The Word of the Lord.

R: Thanks be to God!

**Psalm 24** (Read Responsively)

<sup>1</sup> The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it,  
the world and those who dwell therein.

<sup>2</sup> **For the Lord has founded it up- on the seas  
and established it up- on the rivers.**

<sup>3</sup> Who may ascend the mountain of the Lord,  
and who may stand in God's holy place?

<sup>4</sup> **Those of innocent hands and purity of heart,  
who do not swear on God's being, nor do they pledge by what  
is false.**

<sup>5</sup> They shall receive blessing from the Lord  
and righteousness from the God of their salvation.

<sup>6</sup> **Such is the generation of those who seek you, O Lord,  
of those who seek your face, O God of Jacob.**

<sup>7</sup> Lift up your heads, O gates; and be lifted up, O everlasting doors,  
that the King of glory may come in.

<sup>8</sup> **Who is this King of glory?**

**The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord, mighty in battle!**

<sup>9</sup> Lift up your heads, O gates; and be lifted up, O everlasting doors,  
that the King of glory may come in.

<sup>10</sup> **Who is this King of glory?**

**Truly, the Lord of hosts is the King of glory.**

**Second Reading**

**Revelation 21:1-6a**

<sup>1</sup> I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. <sup>2</sup> And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

“See, the home of God is among mortals.

He will dwell with them;

they will be his peoples,

and God himself will be with them;

<sup>4</sup> he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more;

mourning and crying and pain will be no more,

for the first things have passed away.”

<sup>5</sup> And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” <sup>6a</sup> Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end.”

**L:**The Word of the Lord.

**R: Thanks be to God!**

## **Gospel Acclamation**

***Alleluia.* They are before the throne of God, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. *Alleluia.***

## **Gospel**

**John 11:32-44**

**P:** The Holy Gospel according to John the eleventh chapter.

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

<sup>32</sup> When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” <sup>33</sup> When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. <sup>34</sup> He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” <sup>35</sup> Jesus began to weep. <sup>36</sup> So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” <sup>37</sup> But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”



<sup>38</sup> Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. <sup>39</sup> Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.” <sup>40</sup> Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?” <sup>41</sup> So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me. <sup>42</sup> I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.” <sup>43</sup> When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” <sup>44</sup> The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

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

## **Youth Sermon**

## **Sermon**

**HYMN “Shall We Gather at the River” #423**

**1 Shall we gather at the river,  
where bright angel feet have trod,  
with its crystal tide forever  
flowing by the throne of God?**

### ***Refrain***

**Yes, we'll gather at the river,  
the beautiful, the beautiful river;  
gather with the saints at the river  
that flows by the throne of God.**

**2 On the margin of the river,  
washing up its silver spray,  
we will walk and worship ever,  
all the happy golden day. *Refrain***

**3 Ere we reach the shining river,  
lay we ev'ry burden down;  
grace our spirits will deliver,  
and provide a robe and crown. *Refrain***

**4 Soon we'll reach the shining river,  
soon our pilgrimage will cease;  
soon our happy hearts will quiver  
with the melody of peace. *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 INTERCESSION**

*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

Offering

Offertory

**8:15 “At Every Turn”**

(Gregory Wismar, text; David von Kampen, music”)

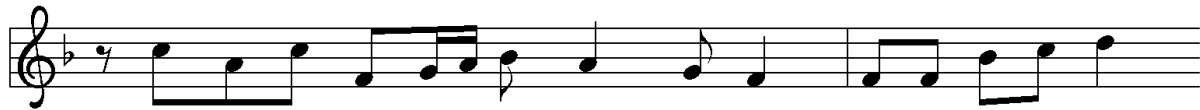
**10:45 “My Faith Looks Up To Thee” (Robert Buckley Farlee)**

Text is Hymn #759

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

**God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things at your table, that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord. Amen.**

# Great Thanksgiving

The 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.

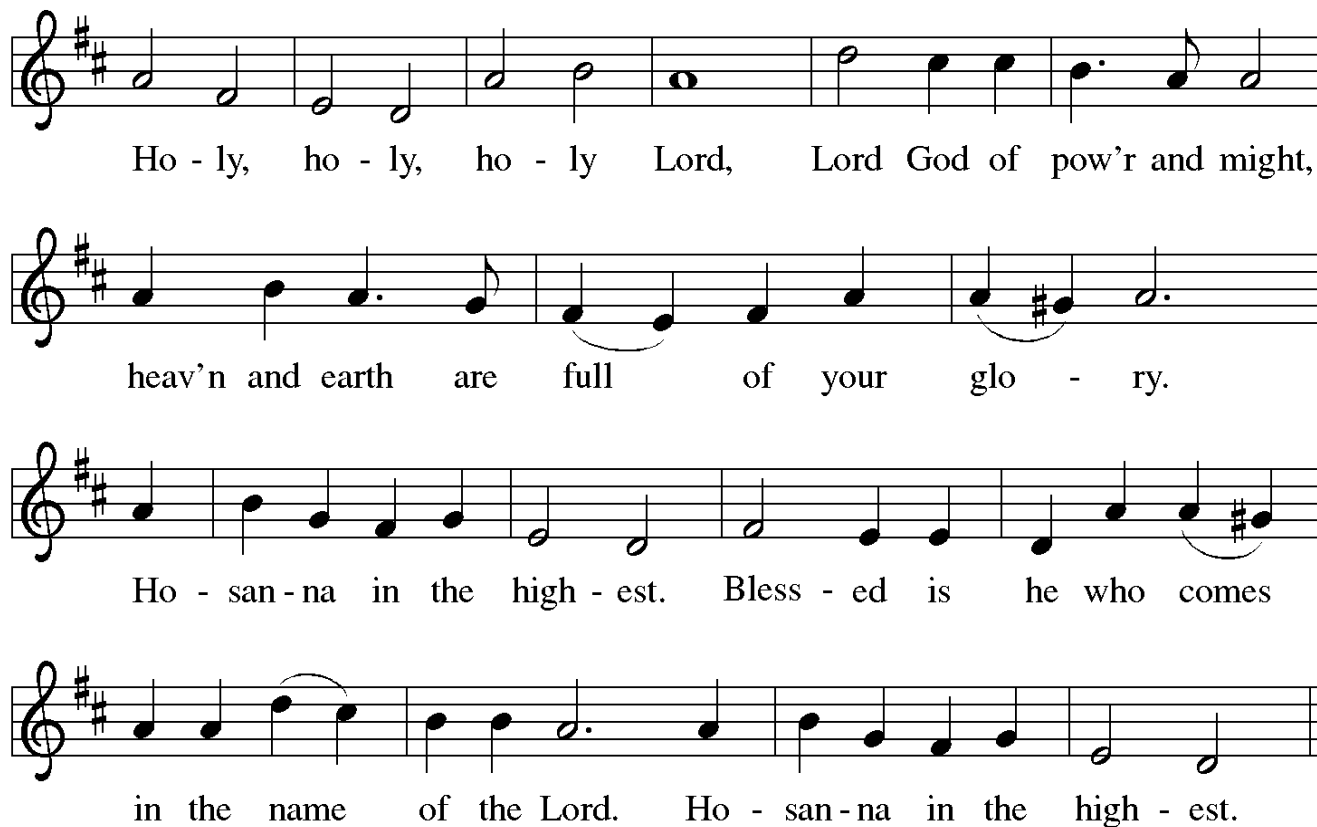
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## 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.

By the witness of your saints  
you show us the hope of our calling  
and strengthen us to run the race set before us,  
that we may delight in your mercy and rejoice with them in glory.  
And so, with all the saints,  
with the choirs of angels and all the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## Holy, Holy, Holy



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

*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.

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.*

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            "For All the Saints"            #422

**5    The golden evening brightens in the west;  
soon, soon to faithful servants cometh rest;  
sweet is the calm of paradise the blest.**

**Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**6    But then there breaks a yet more glorious day:  
the saints triumphant rise in bright array;  
the King of glory passes on his way.**

**Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**7    From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,  
through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,  
singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost:**

**Alleluia! Alleluia!**

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**Thanks be to God.**

*From Evangelical Lutheran Worship © 2006. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission of Augsburg Fortress under license #SB144012.*

*First 2 readings and the Gospel Reading: New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.*

*The prayers of intercession (printed in each Sunday/festival section) may be reproduced for onetime, non-sale use, provided copies are for local use only and the following copyright notice appears: From Sundays and Seasons, copyright © 2023 Augsburg Fortress.*

# BLESSED TO BLESS

## SERVING TODAY:

**LECTORS** are Rebecca Brunetta and Tawnya Combs.

**WORSHIP ASSISTANT** is Dianna Marusko.

## SERVING IN NOVEMBER:

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

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

## PRAYER CONCERNS:

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

**THE ALTAR FLOWERS** are given in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Smith Sr., and Arthur Glenn and Sara Jane Smith by Rich and Kathy Walker.

**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.

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

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION:**

**ALL SAINTS SUNDAY** is today, as we remember those who have died in the faith. Families may take home a white rose from the vase near the altar in remembrance of their loved ones who have died since our last All Saints Sunday. We also honor our newest Saints, who were received through baptism this year, with a white rose and a small gift.

### **Those Who Have Passed**

*Robert Bowman*

*Teresa Grove*

*James Skodak*

*Barbara Slaughenhaupt*

*Shirley Thomas*

*Catherine Yurcovich*

### **Baptized**

*Royce Boatright*

*Bentley Fauth*

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS** today will follow worship services for the purpose of nominating congregation council members.

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

**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** for today 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.

**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.

**HANDBELLS** Thursday, 6:15 PM.

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 78.

## **Stewardship Snippets**

**Mark 12:31** – **Jesus taught**, “The second greatest commandment is this: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

*How do we express love for our neighbors? Through prayer and caring action. For our needy neighbors, this might come in the form of a donation to a helping ministry.*

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

## **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING NOVEMBER 17**

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

## 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.

## 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 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 off in the church office. Thank you!

**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.





The Westmoreland Symphony and  
Academy Concerts present:

## *Music of Freedom and Independence*

Featuring the Academy String Quartet

**Sunday, November 3, 2024 at 2:00 PM**

**Zion's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Greensburg PA**

***"Music of Freedom and Independence* is a program of great music connected to the yearning for personal freedom or national independence. You will hear stirring music by Josef Suk, specifically intended to inspire the Czech people to free themselves from Austrian domination at the outset of World War I, and the more subtle Czech nationalism of his father-in-law, Antonin Dvořák, in a lovely string quartet that uses forms and rhythms of Bohemian folk music. We recognize the fight against foreign invasion in Ukraine with an *Elegy* by Ukrainian composer Vasily Barvinsky, himself a political prisoner of the Soviet Union for 18 years. Bulgaria was under Turkish domination for nearly 500 years, and yet Bulgarian folk music not only survived but shows barely a trace of Turkish influence; the Academy String Quartet plays brand-new *Bulgarian Suite* by Pittsburgher Thomas Roncevic. Finally, American composer Adolphus Hailstork's *Variation on Swing Low, Sweet Chariot* expresses the rage of enslaved people and their longing for release from oppression. Beauty, pride, anger, perseverance, grief, faith, and hope are all represented in this concert."**

~Warren Davidson, Academy Concerts Director

**Tickets (\$20) available online at [www.westmorelandsymphony.org](http://www.westmorelandsymphony.org)  
and at the door the day of the concert.**

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



*"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood,  
a holy nation, God's own people"*

*– 1 Peter 2:9*

God's mercy comes to you in countless ways. Our Lord Jesus is chief among these. It is through the love and forgiveness that is ours in our Lord Jesus that we can boldly claim to be God's own people – not because of what we have done, but because of what God has done for us through his only Son.

God's mercy also comes to you in many other ways. Among these are the material possessions you enjoy. They are gifts from God, but more than this, they are entrusted to you by God. The Bible teaches us that everything belongs to God. To be a steward is to be entrusted to care for some of what God owns in this world. That steward is you, entrusted to care for all that God has placed in your hands.

Because of God's great mercy, we marvel at all we have received. Because of God's great mercy, we think about how we will respond.