

**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.

# FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

February 18, 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            **“They Crucified My Lord”**  
(Spiritual arr. Sam Batt Owens) Hymn # 350

#### **Confession and Forgiveness**

*The congregation stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,  
who forgives all our sin,  
whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Gracious God,  
**have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**  
**Amen.**

*The presiding minister announces God's forgiveness with these or similar words.*

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

**Amen.**

*The assembly stands. The service continues with a gathering song.*

**Hymn**      **“The Glory of These Forty Days”**      **#320**

**1 The glory of these forty days  
we celebrate with songs of praise;  
for Christ, through whom all things were made,  
himself has fasted and has prayed.**

**2 Alone and fasting Moses saw  
the loving God who gave the law;  
and to Elijah, fasting, came  
the steeds and chariots of flame.**

**3 So Daniel trained his mystic sight,  
delivered from the lions' might;  
and John, the Bridegroom's friend, became  
the herald of Messiah's name.**

**4 Then grant, O God, that we may, too,  
return in fast and prayer to you.  
Our spirits strengthen with your grace,  
and give us joy to see your face.**

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.**

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray.

**Holy God, heavenly Father, in the waters of the flood you saved the chosen, and in the wilderness of temptation you protected your Son from sin. Renew us in the gift of baptism. May your holy angels be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

*The congregation may be seated.*

## WORD

First Reading    **Genesis 9:8-17**

<sup>8</sup>God said to Noah and to his sons with him, <sup>9</sup>“As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, <sup>10</sup>and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. <sup>11</sup>I establish my covenant with you, that never

again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” <sup>12</sup>God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: <sup>13</sup>I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. <sup>14</sup>When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, <sup>15</sup>I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. <sup>16</sup>When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” <sup>17</sup>God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

The Word of the Lord.

**R/Thanks be to God!**

**Psalm 25:1-10**

*(Read responsively)*

<sup>1</sup>To | you, O LORD,  
I lift | up my soul.

<sup>2</sup>**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be | put to shame,  
nor let my enemies triumph | over me.**

<sup>3</sup>Let none who look to you be | put to shame;  
rather let those be put to shame | who are treacherous.

<sup>4</sup>**Show me your | ways, O LORD,  
and teach | me your paths.**

<sup>5</sup>Lead me in your | truth and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all | the  
day long.

<sup>6</sup>**Remember, O LORD, your compas- | sion and love,  
for they are from | everlasting.**

<sup>7</sup>Remember not the sins of my youth and | my transgressions;  
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of  
your good- | ness, O LORD.

<sup>8</sup>**You are gracious and up- | right, O LORD;  
therefore you teach sinners | in your way.**

<sup>9</sup>You lead the low-ly in justice  
and teach the low-ly your way.

<sup>10</sup>**All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast | love and faithfulness  
to those who keep your covenant and your | testimonies.**

## Second Reading 1 Peter 3:18-22

<sup>18</sup>Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, <sup>19</sup>in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, <sup>20</sup>who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. <sup>21</sup>And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, <sup>22</sup>who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

The Word of the Lord.

**R/Thanks be to God!**

## Gospel Acclamation

Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra-cious and mer-ci-ful,  
slow to an - ger, and a-bound-ing in stead-fast love.

Gospel **Mark 1:9-15**

P: The Holy Gospel according to Mark the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.

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

<sup>9</sup>In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup>And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. <sup>11</sup>And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

<sup>12</sup>And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. <sup>13</sup>He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

<sup>14</sup>Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, <sup>15</sup>and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

P/The Gospel of the Lord.

**R/ Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Youth Sermon (10:45 AM)**

### **Sermon**

**Hymn      “Bless Now, O God, the Journey”**

**#326**

**1 Bless now, O God, the journey  
that all your people make,  
the path through noise and silence,  
the way of give and take.  
The trail is found in desert  
and winds the mountain round,  
then leads beside still waters,  
the road where faith is found.**

**2 Bless sojourners and pilgrims  
who share this winding way;  
your hope burns through the terrors,  
your love sustains the day.  
We yearn for holy freedom  
while often we are bound;  
together we are seeking  
the road where faith is found.**

**3 Divine eternal lover,  
you meet us on the road.  
We wait for land of promise  
where milk and honey flow,  
but waiting not for places,  
you meet us all around.  
Our covenant is written  
on roads, as faith is found.**

## **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.**

*The service continues with the prayers of intercession.*

### Prayers of the Church

*To stay current with our many continuing prayer needs, we will refresh our prayer list at the beginning of each new month by starting with a clean slate. We understand that many people will continue to need prayer beyond the length of one month. If you wish to continue to have someone listed in the bulletin for public prayer, please call the office by the last Wednesday of the month.*

Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

*A brief silence.*

*At each petition,  
Hear us, O God.*

**Your mercy is great.**

*The presiding minister concludes the prayers with these or similar words.*

Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, 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**      **"Alas, and Did My Savior Bleed"**  
(arr. John Leavitt) Hymn #337

**10:45**      **"God So Loved the World"** (arr. Aaron David Miller)  
God so loved the world he gave his only Son, so that ev'ry one who believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God sent not his Son to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved.  
Amen. (Text: John 3:16, alt.)

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 our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our 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.**

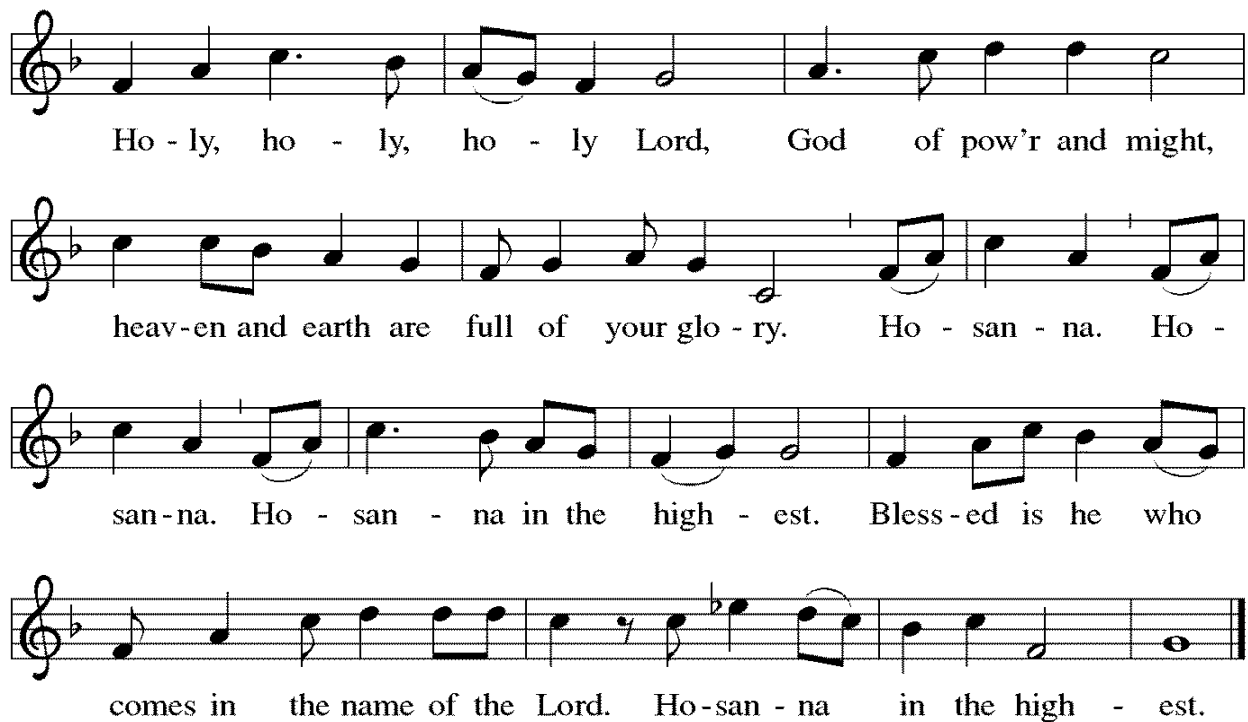
*The presiding minister continues:*

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.

You call your people to cleanse their hearts  
and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,  
that, renewed in the gift of baptism,  
we may come to the fullness of your grace.

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 (ELW p. 153)**

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

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.

## **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. Taste and see that the Lord is good.

## **COMMUNION**

*All 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.*
- *Cups can be placed in the receptacles near each side aisle as you return to your pew.*
- *For those who would like to receive communion, but are not comfortable coming to the rail, please let an Usher know so that the Pastor and Assisting Minister can bring communion to you.*

*When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say*

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

*and each person may respond Amen.*

*After all have received,*

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

## Prayer after Communion

*The assisting minister leads a prayer after communion.*

Let us pray.

Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

# SENDING

## Blessing

*The presiding minister proclaims God's blessing.*

Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

## Hymn    “Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing”    #545

**1 Lord, dismiss us with your blessing,  
fill our hearts with joy and peace;  
let us each, your love possessing,  
triumph in redeeming grace.  
Oh, refresh us; oh, refresh us,  
trav'ling through this wilderness.**

**2 Thanks we give and adoration  
for your gospel's joyful sound.  
May the fruits of your salvation  
in our hearts and lives abound.  
Ever faithful, ever faithful  
to your truth may we be found.**

**3 Savior, when your love shall call us  
from our struggling pilgrim way,  
let no fear of death appall us,  
glad your summons to obey.  
May we ever, may we ever  
reign with you in endless day.**

## Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

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## **BLESSED TO BLESS**

### **SERVING TODAY:**

**ACOLYTES** are Molly Boggs and Corrina Vuick.

**LECTORS** are Mark Barnhart and Malcolm Sias.

**WORSHIP ASSISTANT** is Rebecca Brunetta.

### **PRAYER CONCERNS:**

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER** this week Brandie, Suzy, Lois, Terry, Joyce, Cullen, Doug, Gavin, Dennis, Pat, Alecia, Connie, Dean, Rick, Pat, Sandy, Jeff, Jan, Andrea, Teresa, Christopher, Denise, Ed, Claire, Karen, Phil, Les, Addy, Bob, and Barbara.

**THE ALTAR FLOWERS** are given in memory of John V., Irene M., and Irene A. Skodak by their family.

**THE CHANCEL FLOWERS** are given in memory of William H. Ruff and Alice H. Ruff by their family.



**PRAYER REQUESTS** for First's Prayer Chain may be made at any time by calling the church office or by writing the request on the prayer cards in the pew racks and placing it in the offering plate. **If for whatever reason you do not want your name listed but would like to be on the prayer list, just let us know when you make your request.**

**INDEPENDENCE HEALTH SYSTEM** (formerly Excelsa Health) does not notify the church of member admissions. Please notify the pastor or call the church office if you or your loved one is hospitalized.

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION:**

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

**CHOIR REHEARSAL** 10:00 AM today.

**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).

**WEDNESDAY VESPERS** 6:00 PM.

**HANDBELLS** Wednesday, 6:45 PM.

**NEWSLETTER FOLDING** Thursday, 10:00 AM.

**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 122.

**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.

## **Stewardship Snippets**

*“All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.” – Psalm 25:10*

God’s commandments and Jesus’ teachings are not optional for Christians; they are given for the purpose of our growth in Christ. In turn we share Christ’s love with our neighbors and steward carefully all of God’s good gifts.

*“Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus, our Lord.”*

*Romans 8:39*

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

**“As Servants of Jesus Christ, we strive to impact our families, neighbors, and the world by sharing our faith, empowered by God’s Grace”**

**Developed by Church Council**

**October 2016**



## BIBLES FOR LOVE PACKAGES

Do you have old Bibles that you no longer use or have inherited and don't know what to do with them? Well, we have an answer.

Beginning in January and running for several months, First Lutheran will collect used and/or new Bibles as well as Sunday School materials and other Christian materials to send to "Love Packages."

### **Putting the Word of God into Hungry Hands All Over the World**

Love Packages is fueling international missions work and sending the gospel to the ends of the earth by putting donated bibles and other Christian literature into the hands of people around the world. Some of the locations shipped to include Kenya, India, Uganda, South America, and others in need. They ship over 1,500 tons of recycled gospel literature to the mission field every year.

**YOU ARE INVITED**  
**LENTEN THURSDAY WORSHIP & LUNCHEON**  
**AT ZION'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**140 S. Pennsylvania Avenue**  
**Greensburg PA 15601**

Services begin at 12:05 PM  
Lunch is served following the service at 12:30 PM

- February 22 Preaching: The Rev. Dr. Scott Dennis  
Lunch: Ham BBQ, Broccoli Salad, Chips, and Cake Roll
- February 29 Preaching: The Rev. Kara Propst  
Lunch: Chicken Casserole, Cranberry Salad, Rolls, Cookies
- March 7 Preaching: The Rev. Roger Steiner  
Lunch: Ham & Cheese Sandwich, Wedding Soup, Veggies and dip, and Pie
- March 14 Preaching: The Rev. Christopher Combs  
Lunch: Roast Beef Sandwich, Potato Salad, Veggies and dip, and Bar Cookies
- March 21 Preaching: The Rev. Caroline Clifford  
Lunch: Broccoli Cheese Soup, Chicken Salad Croissant, and Cherry Crisp
- March 28 Preaching: The Rev. Brian B. Chaffee  
Lunch: Soup and Salad Bar

Suggested Lunch Donation—\$5.00

Worship & Luncheon are not held on days when Greensburg-Salem School district declares a school closing due to snow.