

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.

RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD

EASTER DAY

April 20, 2025
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 8:15 “Hymn of Promise”
(Text and Music by Natalie Sleeth)
Rebecca Brunetta, soloist

**In the bulb there is a flower, in the seed, an apple tree,
In cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter, there’s a spring that waits to be,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.**

**There’s a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;
There’s a dawn in every darkness bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.**

**In the end is our beginning; in our time, infinity.
In our doubt, there is believing; in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.**

**10:45 A Festive Ring (Michael Burkhardt)
That Easter Day With Joy Was Bright
(arr. Douglas Wagner)**

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.

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.

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.**

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Hymn “Jesus Christ Is Risen Today”

#365

Jesus Christ is ris'n today, Alleluia.

Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia.

Who did once upon the cross, Alleluia.

Suffer to redeem our loss, Alleluia.

Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia.

Unto Christ our heav'nly king, Alleluia.

Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia.

Sinners to redeem and save, Alleluia.

But the pains which he endured, Alleluia.

Our salvation have procured, Alleluia.

Now above the sky he's king, Alleluia.

Where the angels ever sing, Alleluia.

Sing we to our God above, Alleluia.

Praise eternal as his love, Alleluia.

Praise him, all you heav'nly host, Alleluia.

Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, 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.**

This Is the Feast

Refrain

Assisting minister



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.

All



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow-er and rich-es and wis-dom and



strength, and hon-or and bless-ing and glo-ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



2 Sing with all the peo-ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing and hon-or and glo-ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

Prayer of the Day

The presiding minister leads the prayer of the day.

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

God of mercy, we no longer look for Jesus among the dead, for he is alive and has become the Lord of life. Increase in our minds and hearts the risen life we share with Christ and help us to grow as your people toward the fullness of eternal life with 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 65:17-25

¹⁷ I am about to create new heavens

and a new earth;

the former things shall not be remembered

or come to mind.

¹⁸ But be glad and rejoice forever

in what I am creating;

for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy,

and its people as a delight.

¹⁹ I will rejoice in Jerusalem,

and delight in my people;

no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it,

or the cry of distress.

²⁰ No more shall there be in it

an infant that lives but a few days,

or an old person who does not live out a lifetime;

for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth,

and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed.

²¹ They shall build houses and inhabit them;

they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.

²² They shall not build and another inhabit;
 they shall not plant and another eat;
 for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be,
 and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands.

²³ They shall not labor in vain,
 or bear children for calamity;
 for they shall be offspring blessed by the Lord—
 and their descendants as well.

²⁴ Before they call I will answer,
 while they are yet speaking I will hear.

²⁵ The wolf and the lamb shall feed together,
 the lion shall eat straw like the ox;
 but the serpent—its food shall be dust!
 They shall not hurt or destroy
 on all my holy mountain,
 says the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

R/Thanks be to God!

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

¹Give thanks to the LORD, for the [|] LORD is good;
 God's mercy en- [|] dures forever.

²**Let Israel [|] now declare,**
"God's mercy en- [|] dures forever."

¹⁴The LORD is my strength [|] and my song,
 and has become [|] my salvation.

¹⁵**Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents [|] of the**
righteous:
"The right hand of the [|] LORD acts valiantly!"

¹⁶The right hand of the LORD [|] is exalted!
 The right hand of the [|] LORD acts valiantly!"

¹⁷**I shall not [|] die, but live,**
and declare the works [|] of the LORD.

¹⁸The LORD indeed pun- | ished me sorely,
but did not hand me o- | ver to death.

¹⁹**Open for me the | gates of righteousness;
I will enter them and give thanks | to the LORD.**

²⁰"This is the gate | of the LORD;
here the righ- | teous may enter."

²¹**I give thanks to you, for you have | answered me
and you have become | my salvation.**

²²The stone that the build- | ers rejected
has become the chief | cornerstone.

²³**By the LORD has | this been done;
it is marvelous | in our eyes.**

²⁴This is the day that the | LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be | glad in it.

Second Reading Acts 10:34-43

³⁴ Peter began to speak to [the people]: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵ but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶ You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷ That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹ We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰ but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹ not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴² He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

The Word of the Lord.

R/Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia. Christ, our paschal lamb, | has been sacrificed.
Therefore, let us | keep the feast. ***Alleluia.***

Gospel

Luke 24:1-12

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke the twenty-fourth chapter.

R/ Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ On the first day of the week, at early dawn, [the women] came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. ² They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³ but when they went in, they did not find the body. ⁴ While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. ⁵ The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. ⁶ Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, ⁷ that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.” ⁸ Then they remembered his words, ⁹ and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. ¹⁰ Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. ¹¹ But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. ¹² But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

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

Youth Sermon

Sermon

**Christ the Lord is ris'n today; Alleluia!
Christians, hasten on your way; Alleluia!
Offer praise with love replete, Alleluia!
At the paschal victim's feet. Alleluia!**

**For the sheep, the Lamb has bled, Alleluia!
Sinless in the sinner's stead. Alleluia!
Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Alleluia!
Now he lives, no more to die. Alleluia!**

**Christ, the victim undefiled, Alleluia!
God and sinners reconciled, Alleluia!
When contending death and life, Alleluia!
Met in strange and awesome strife, Alleluia!**

**Christians, on this holy day, Alleluia
All your grateful homage pay; Alleluia!
Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Alleluia!
Now he lives, no more to die. Alleluia!**

Nicene Creed With the whole church we confess our faith.

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. 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.

God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

At each petition,
God of grace,
hear our prayer.

The presiding minister concludes the prayers with these words.

We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen 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 “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”
(arr. Robert Hobby)

Offertory 10:45 “Consider the Lilies” (Natalie Sleeth)

Consider the lilies and how they grow, blossoming there in the field. ‘Tis not for their labor they flourish so, flowers of beauty to yield.

REFRAIN: Through the grace of God above, tending all in constant love. Ev’ry want shall be supplied, for God the Lord will provide.

Consider a moment the birds in flight, ev’rywhere filling the air. With never a worry they seek the height, nourished in bountiful share. REFRAIN.

Store not up in great array treasures for the coming day. In the kingdom first believe, and all good things you shall receive. For more than the lilies that bloom and grow, more than the birds of the air. Your maker forever your need will know and feed you with heavenly care. REFRAIN.

“On Earth Has Dawned This Day Of Days”
(Cornish tune, arr. Hal Hopson)

1. On earth has dawned the day of days, where on the faithful give God praise. For Christ is risen from the tomb, and light and joy have conquered doom.

REFRAIN: Sing alleluia, vict’ry is won. Sing alleluia. Christus surrexit, alleluia.

2. At early morning with spices rare, the women three assembled there, all to anoint fair Mary’s Son, who over death had vict’ry won. REFRAIN.

3. “Whom seek ye here?” the angel said: “The Lord is risen from the dead; see where he lay; let joy begin, the tomb is empty, enter in!” REFRAIN.

4. So let our songs to heaven wing, the vault with alleluias ring, in praise of Christ, our risen Lord. New life to all he doth afford. REFRAIN.

Offertory Response:

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

Offering Song



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be
fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -
nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923

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Offertory Prayer (in unison)

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through 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.

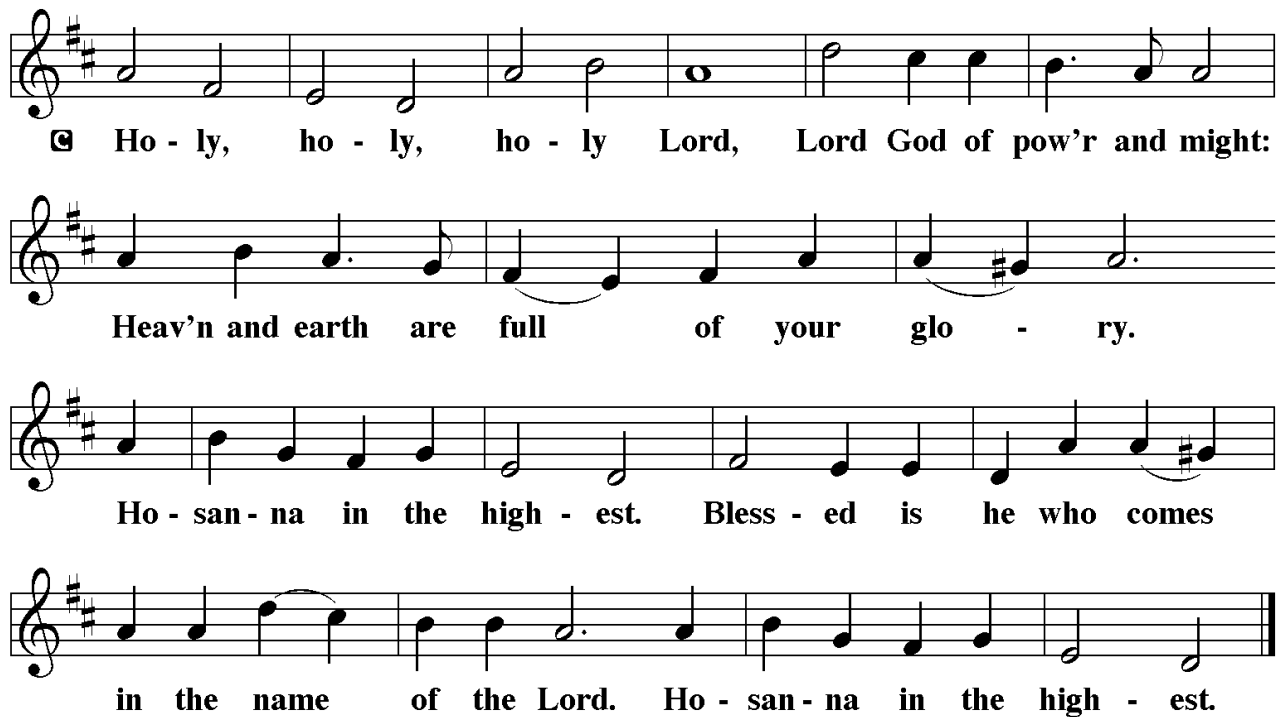
We lift them to the Lord.

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,
for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ,
the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin;
who in dying has destroyed death,
and in rising has brought us to eternal life.
And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the
resurrection,
with earth and sea and all their creatures,
and with angels and archangels, cherubim, and seraphim,
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.

You are indeed holy, O God, the fountain of all holiness; you bring light from darkness, life from death, speech from silence. We worship you for our lives and for the world you give us. We thank you for the new world to come and for the love that will rule all in all. We praise you for the grace shown to Israel, your chosen, the people of your promise: the rescue from Egypt, the gift of the promised land, the memory of the fathers, the homecoming from exile, and the prophets' words that will not be in vain. In all this we bless you for your only begotten Son, who fulfilled and will fulfill all your promises.

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.

Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup we remember the incarnation of your Son: his human birth and the covenant he made with us. We remember the sacrifice of his life: his eating with outcasts and sinners, and his acceptance of death. But chiefly we remember his rising from the tomb, his ascension to the seat of power, and his sending of the holy and life-giving Spirit. We cry out for the resurrection of our lives when Christ will come again in beauty and power to share with us the great and promised feast.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, that we and all who share in this bread and cup may be united in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, may enter the fullness of the kingdom of heaven, and may receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, 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.**

The presiding minister may address the assembly in these or similar words.

The gifts of God for the people of God. Taste and see that the Lord is good.

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.*

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.

Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Blessing

The presiding minister proclaims God's blessing.

Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Hymn "Thine Is the Glory!"

#376

1. Thine is the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son; endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won!

Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away, kept the folded graveclothes where thy body lay.

REFRAIN: Thine is the glory, risen conqu'ring Son; endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won.

2. Lo, Jesus meets thee, risen from the tomb! Lovingly he greets thee, scatters fear and gloom;

Let his church with gladness hymns of triumph sing, for the Lord now liveth; death hath lost its sting! REFRAIN

3. No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life; life is naught without thee, aid us in our strife;

Make us more than conqu'rors through thy deathless love; bring us safe through Jordan, to thy home above. REFRAIN

Dismissal

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

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BLESSED TO BLESS

SERVING TODAY:

8:15 AM

10:45 AM

ACOLYTE

Noah Boggs

LECTORS

Bill Pfeifer

Sunshine Keiser

WORSHIP ASSISTANT

Rebecca Brunetta

Rebecca Brunetta

ALTAR GUILD for April includes Roberta Laciak and Mary Caldwell.

PRAYER CONCERNS:

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER this week Brandie, Suzy, Terry, Cullen, Doug, Gavin, Dennis, Cooper, Carolyn, Dave, Jean, Stacey, Jen, Pam, Pat, Hollie, Patty, Shelly, Brody, Carolyn, Scott, Ruth, Cindy, Taylor, Rachel, John, Judy, Rachel, Sue, John, Cathy, Mark, Paul, Jean, Kathy, Matthew, Jessie, and Willis.

THE ALTAR FLOWERS are given in memory of John and Norma Raynak and Jan by daughter, Kathy and Dennis.

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:

THANKS to Rebecca Brunetta, Tawnya Combs, Eric Combs, Michele Boulet, FELC Handbell Choir, and the Adult Choir for their musical assistance today.

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE last Sunday morning was 122.

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

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.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST:

Sunday – April 20 – Easter Sunday

8:15 – Worship

10:45 – Worship

Monday – April 21

May Newsletter Deadline

Tuesday – April 22

6:30 – Christian Education and Youth

Wednesday – April 23

12:00 – Food From the Heart

Saturday – April 26

9:30 – Sort the Lenten Project donations in the Fellowship Hall

Sunday – April 27 – Second Sunday of Easter

8:15 – Worship

9:00 – Continental Breakfast

9:30 – Sunday School

10:45 – Worship

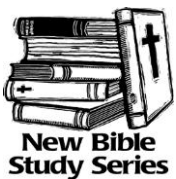
Luke 24:6–7 – “He is not here but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise.” Jesus is risen. But is that Good News? What if He is mad at us for betraying Him, for running away at Gethsemane, for not believing He would rise? The Good News is not just that Jesus is risen; the Good News is that He is risen to bless us. There is no need to be alarmed. He still calls us His friends and brothers and sisters, and He means to bring us through death to resurrection as well. The Lord is risen — He is risen indeed!

**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.**

2025 LENTEN CONGREGATIONAL PROJECT



Once again the congregation's response to the Lenten Project has been overwhelming! Many thanks to everyone who donated to the Community Clothes Closet, hopefully your closets are now roomier. We will be sorting the donations Saturday, April 26 at 9:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall. Volunteers are most welcome, many hands make light work



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 April 28. Hope to see you there!

*"Taste and see that the Lord is good; happy
are they that take refuge in him"*

Psalms 34:8

HONOR MOTHER'S with the gift of a chick (or ten!!!)

Once again for Mother's Day (May 11th) members of the Christian Outreach Team suggest a fitting way to honor and remember your/any mother.

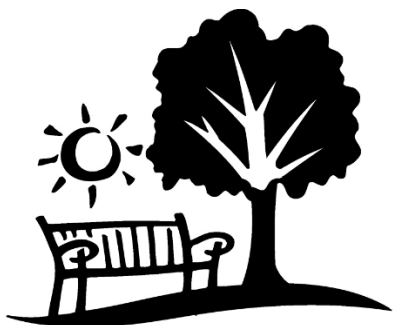
Ten little chicks can make a big difference. Eggs from chickens not only provide an ongoing supply of protein-rich meals for a family, but they can also launch a small business that provides a steady source of income.

Honor your mother(s) with a gift to ELCA Good Gifts in the amount of \$10.00. Your gift will purchase 10 chicks for a family in need.

A member of the Christian Outreach Team will be in the Education Building between worship services on Sunday, April 27th and Sunday, May 4th for you to make your gifts. A team member will also be available after Worship in the Park on Saturday May 3rd. You may also make gifts during the week through the church office.

SWPA WOMEN of the ELCA CLUSTERS 3 and 4 SPRING MEETING May 3, 2025 at St. Paul's Highfield Lutheran Church, 1595 Dime Rd., Vandergrift, PA 15690. Registration and refreshments at 8:45 AM; Worship at 9:30 AM and lunch at Noon (luncheon fee is \$10.00). Here is a chance to learn about gardening, have fellowship with your sisters in Christ, share outreach ideas and lunch. Please phone Mary Jane Ramer at 724-568-2530 by April 19, 2025 to register so they know how many to prepare for.

THE WESTMORELAND SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA and ACADEMY CONCERTS presents: The Academy String Quartet with special guest Linda Mortan-Fisher, Bassoon Sunday, May 4 2025 at 2:00 PM at Zion's Evangelical Lutheran Church (140 South Pennsylvania Ave., Greensburg). Come and enjoy an afternoon of varied music featuring the music of F.J. Haydn, W.A. Mozart, F. Devienne, B. Garfield, and Pittsburgh area composer T. Roncevic. Admission is \$20.00 and tickets are available at the door.



Saturday Worship In the Park

Weather permitting

We are trying something new!

Have you ever thought it would be nice to worship outside in the park? Well, we have just the thing!

We will be having worship outside in the park on the

following Saturdays at 5:00pm. May

3rd & 17th, June 7th & 21st, July 12th & 26th,
and August 9th and 23rd.

This is casual worship in the park (or the fellowship hall if necessary). Please bring your favorite camp chair and dress for the outdoors. Hope to see you there!

Plan to stay after worship on May 3rd for hamburgers and hot dogs, chips, and macaroni salad. Food and Fellowship to celebrate this new thing God has us doing at First.