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 lifegiving 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.

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 10, 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

8:15 "In The Cross of Christ I Glory" (arr. Robert Lau)

10:45 "Were You There When They Crucified My Lord"

(arr. Douglas Wagner)

"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

(arr. Linda Scholes)

FELC Handbell Choir

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 "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.**

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

O God, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, 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 Numbers 21:4-9

⁴From Mount Hor [the Israelites] set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. ⁵The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." ⁶Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live."

⁹So Moses made a serpent of bronze and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

The Word of the Lord. **R/Thanks be to God!**

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22 (*Read responsively*)

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

²Let the redeemed of the | LORD proclaim that God redeemed them from the hand | of the foe,

³gathering them in | from the lands;

from the east and from the west, from the north and | from the south.

- ¹⁷Some were fools and took re- | bellious paths; through their sins they | were afflicted.
- ¹⁸They loathed all man- | ner of food and drew near | to death's door.
- ¹⁹Then in their trouble they cried | to the LORD and you delivered them from | their distress.
- ²⁰You sent forth your | word and healed them and rescued them | from the grave.
- ²¹Let them give thanks to you, LORD, for your | steadfast love and your wonderful works | for all people.
- ²²Let them offer sacrifices | of thanksgiving and tell of your deeds with | shouts of joy.

Second Reading Ephesians 2:1-10

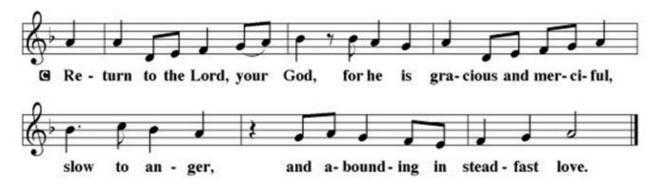
¹You were dead through the trespasses and sins ²in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. ³All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. ⁴But God, who is rich in mercy,

out of the great love with which he loved us ⁵even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—⁹not the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

The Word of the Lord.

R/Thanks be to God!

Gospel Acclamation



Gospel **John 3:14-21**

P: The Holy Gospel according to John the 3rd chapter.

R/Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ¹⁴"Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸Those

who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

P/The Gospel of the Lord.
Youth Sermon (10:45 AM)

R/ Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn "Lamb of God" #336

1 Your only Son, no sin to hide, But you have sent him from your side To walk upon this guilty sod And to become the Lamb of God.

Refrain
O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God,
I love the holy Lamb of God.
Oh, wash me in your precious blood,
My Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.

- 2 Your gift of love we crucified.
 We laughed and scorned him as he died.
 The humble king we named a fraud
 And sacrificed the Lamb of God. *Refrain*
- 3 I was so lost, I should have died, But you have brought me to your side To be led by your staff and rod And to be called a lamb of God. *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.

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 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 "Savior, When In Dust To Thee" (arr. Robert Lau)

10:45 "LORD, HERE AM I" (John Ness Beck)

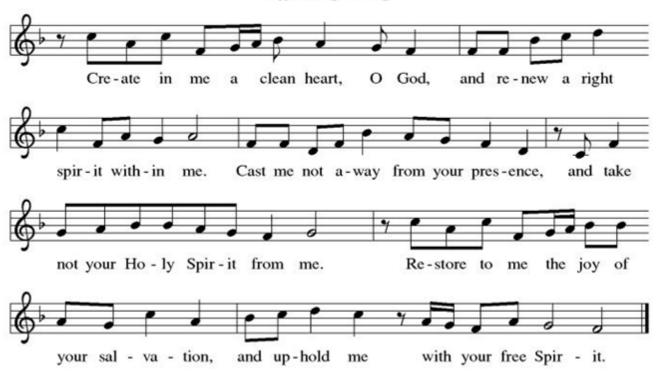
Master, thou callest, I gladly obey; only direct me, and I'll find Thy way. Teach my the mission appointed for me. What is my labor and where it shall be. Master, thou callest and this I reply, "Ready and willing, Lord, here am I."

Willing, my Savior to take up the cross; Willing to suffer reproaches and loss; Willing to follow if Thou will but lead; Only support me with grace in my need. Master, thou callest, and this I reply, "Ready and willing, Lord, here am I."

Living or dying, I still would be Thine. Yet I am mortal while Thou art divine. Pardon whenever I turn from the right; pity and bring me again to the light. Master, thou callest, and this I reply, "Ready and willing, Lord, here am I."

(Text by Fanny Crosby, 1820-1915)

Create in Me a Clean Heart Offering Song



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:

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:

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,

Holy, Holy, Holy



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 "By Grace We Have Been Saved"

(Sung to the tune of #632)

- 1. By grace, we have been saved through faith, and not by works we do.

 For just as God gives life and breath,

 God makes us whole and new.
- 2. We cannot boast of all our deeds; we have not earned our way. It's God, in Christ, who claims and frees and calls us day by day.
- 3. Though all our works won't cure our sin or give to us our worth, we're called to use this time we're in to serve God here on earth.
- 4. O God, in Christ, we hold this world within your love's embrace. In serving you, we thank you, Lord for all your wondrous grace.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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

First two 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 ©2024 Augsburg Fortress.

BLESSED TO BLESS

SERVING TODAY:

ACOLYTES are Aaron Woodley and Tessa Miller.

LECTORS are David von Schlichten and Rebecca Brunetta.

WORSHIP ASSISTANT is Rebecca Brunetta.

ALTAR GUILD for MARCH includes Bev Attenberger and Linda Griffith.

PRAYER CONCERNS:

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER this week Brandie, Suzy, Lois, Terry, Joyce, Cullen, Doug, Gavin, Dennis, Alecia, Andrea, Karen, Phil, Les, Bob, Barbara, Dean, Charlie, Anissa, Jim, Rick, Larry, Cindy, Jeff, Jan, Judy, George, Pat, Sandy, Ted, Levi and his wife and unborn child, Jared, Connie, Caroline, Mark, Teresa, Christopher, Clair, Ed, Nancy, Denise, Mike, and Shirley.

THE ALTAR FLOWERS are given in honor of all those grieving by Sam and Bobbie Laciak.

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:

MEMBERS OF THE HANDBELL CHOIR are Pastor Chris Combs, Tom Flory, David Zaccari, William Pfeifer, Charla Keffer, Shirley Huls, Rebecca Brunetta, Tawnya Combs, Sue Boggs, Cheryl Pfeifer, Liz Rowe, and Suzy Flory.

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

CHOIR REHEARSAL 10:00 AM today.

JAVA TABLE will be open in the Fellowship Hall today between worship services. Fair Trade coffees, teas and chocolates will be available for purchase.

NOISY OFFERING last Sunday was \$173 for Street Outreach organized by Seton Hill University's School of Physical Therapy.

COUNCIL Tuesday, 6:00 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, 6:30 PM.

RUTH CIRCLE will meet Wednesday, March 13 at 6:30 PM in the church parlor. All women of the church are invited to join us for a brief business meeting, an interesting devotion, fellowship, and our always delicious dessert.

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 92.

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.

MARCH FOR PARKS: Remember to register for First Lutheran's March for Parks Team at www.co.westmoreland.pa.us/parks. Our team name is First Lutheran and our team captain is Molly Maga.

Stewardship Snippets

"For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life." – Ephesians 2:10 We have been created to love God and neighbor and to live a life marked by good works and radical generosity. During the season of Lent we are reminded to devote our time and resources to go the second mile for the sake of the good news.

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.

2024 LENTEN CONGREGATIONAL PROJECT CAMP LUTHERLYN "BUILDING for the FUTURE"

Since 1948, Lutherlyn has become an influential presence in the lives of youth and adults throughout Western Pennsylvania. Borne from the conviction that youth would benefit from a faith-based leadership camp, Lutherlyn has intentionally expanded to include education opportunities that explore God's creation. The impact of Lutherlyn lives on in generations of campers, retreaters, summer staff, and the communities of which they are a part.

This \$2.5 million campaign will add five new winterized cabins, repair the amphitheater, remove old cabins, improve roads, and add five seasonal cabins. The *Building for the Future* capital campaign will provide the funding necessary to retain Lutherlyn's capacity for year-round programs and increase the number of youths, adults, and congregations served by this ministry for generations to come.

You may place your contribution in a gold pew envelope and write "Lenten Project" or "Lutherlyn" on the outside of the envelope and on the memo line of your check.

ORDER LILIES FOR EASTER

Lilies will again decorate our church on Easter Sunday. You are invited to purchase a plant at a cost of \$14.00 and "lend" it to the parish. Plants that are purchased may be removed from the church following the 10:45 AM Easter Sunday Service. Any lilies that are not removed by the



Wednesday following Easter will be given to our Food from the Heart guests.

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. All orders are due by **Monday, March 25.**

| In honor of | | |
|--------------------|------|--|
| <i>By</i> | | |
| and/or | | |
| In memory of | | |
| <i>By</i> | | |
| Amount enclosed \$ | | |

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

- 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.



SATURDAY MARCH 30, 2024 10 AM

All children ages twelve and under are invited to come and hunt for Easter eggs at First Lutheran Church.

Friends are invited to join you as well.

Please complete the form below for each child and return to the Church Office.

......



RESERVATION DUE BY

Wednesday, March 27, 2024

| NAME OF CHILD | | |
|---------------|--------------|--|
| | | |
| AGE | PHONE NUMBER | |
| | | |
| EMAIL ADDRESS | | |
| | | |

Please indicate below if your child has any food restrictions or allergies.