

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.

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 15, 2026

9:30 AM

THE WORSHIP SERVICE

The beginning of the organ prelude is a call to silent, personal preparation for the worship of God.

GATHERING

Prelude

“Praise the Father”

(Christian Witt, arr. Anna Laura Page)

**FELC Handbell Choir (Dave Zaccari,
Tom Flory, Pastor Chris Combs, William Pfeifer,
Charla Keffer, Shirley Huls, Rebecca Brunetta,
Tawnya Combs, Sue Boggs, Cheryl Pfeifer,
Elizabeth Rowe)**

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.

- 1 **Amazing grace! how sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
was blind, but now I see.**

- 2 **'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!**

- 3 **Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come;
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.**

- 4 **The Lord has promised good to me;
his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.**

- 5 **When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we'd first begun.**

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.

Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

The congregation may be seated.

WORD

First Reading 1 Samuel 16:1-13

¹ The Lord said to Samuel, “How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.” ² Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.” And the Lord said, “Take a heifer with you, and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.’” ³ Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.” ⁴ Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, “Do you come peaceably?” ⁵ He said, “Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.” And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

⁶ When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely the Lord’s anointed is now before the Lord.” ⁷ But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.” ⁸ Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.” ⁹ Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.” ¹⁰ Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The Lord has not chosen any of these.” ¹¹ Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.” ¹² Jesse sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, “Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.” ¹³ Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

The Word of the Lord.

R/Thanks be to God!

Psalm 23 *(Read responsively)*

¹ The Lord | is my shepherd;
I shall not | be in want.

² **The Lord makes me lie down | in green pastures
and leads me be- | side still waters.**

³ You restore my | soul, O Lord,
and guide me along right pathways | for your name's sake.

⁴ **Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I
shall | fear no evil;**

**for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they | comfort
me.**

⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence | of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is | running over.

⁶ **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days | of my
life,**

and I will dwell in the house of the | Lord forever.

Second Reading Ephesians 5:8-14

⁸ Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—⁹ for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰ Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹ Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹² For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; ¹³ but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴ for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Sleeper, awake!

Rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

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 John 9:1-41

P: The Holy Gospel according to John the 9th chapter.

R/ Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ² His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³ Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. ⁴ We must work the works of the one who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. ⁵ As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” ⁶ When Jesus had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, ⁷ saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸ The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” ⁹ Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” ¹⁰ But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” ¹¹ He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” ¹² They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

¹³ They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴ Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵ Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” ¹⁶ Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. ¹⁷ So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.”

¹⁸ The Judeans did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹ and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” ²⁰ His parents answered, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; ²¹ but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” ²² His parents said this because they were afraid of the Judeans; who had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³ Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

²⁴ So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.” ²⁵ He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” ²⁶ They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” ²⁷ He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?” ²⁸ Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹ We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this person, we do not know where he comes from.” ³⁰ The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹ We know that God does not listen to sinners, but does listen to anyone who is devout and obeys God’s will. ³² Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of someone born blind. ³³ If this person were

not from God, he could do nothing.”³⁴ They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.

³⁵ Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son-of-Man?”³⁶ He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.”³⁷ Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and he is the one speaking with you.”³⁸ He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped Jesus.³⁹ Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.”⁴⁰ Some of the Pharisees near Jesus heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?”⁴¹ Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

P/The Gospel of the Lord.

R/ Praise to you, O Christ.

Youth Sermon

Sermon

Hymn “Lead Me, Guide Me” #768

Refrain:

**Lead me, guide me along the way;
For if You lead me, I cannot stray;
Lord, let me walk each day with Thee.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.**

**1 I am weak, and I need Thy strength and power
To help me over my weakest hour;
Let me through the darkness Thy face to see,
Lead me, O Lord, lead me. [Refrain]**

**2 Help me tread in the paths of righteousness;
Be my aid when Satan and sin oppress.
I am putting all my trust in Thee,
Lead me, O Lord, lead me. [Refrain]**

**3 I am lost, if you take your hand from me;
I am blind, without Thy Light to see;
Lord, just always let me Thy servant be,
Lead me, O Lord, lead me. [Refrain]**

Welcoming New Members to the Congregation

Presentation of New Members

The presiding minister addresses the assembly in these or similar words.

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for *these people*, one with us in the body of Christ, whom we welcome as new members into the life and ministry of this congregation.

A representative of the congregation or the presiding minister may introduce each new member or household.

Letitia Hanson, Greg and Kristin Mallory, and Nick and Ellen Mazerov have indicated their desire to join in the life of this community of faith.

Apostles' Creed

The presiding minister may introduce the Creed.

With the whole church, let us 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.**

Address and Questions

The presiding minister addresses those being welcomed.

In baptism, we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God. We are called to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

Sisters and brothers in Christ,
do you intend to continue in the covenant of your baptism
among God's people in this place?

Those being welcomed respond.

I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

The minister addresses the assembly.

People of God,
do you promise to support and pray for *these* new members in *their* life
in Christ?

We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

Welcome

Those being welcomed face the assembly. A representative of the congregation addresses the assembly.

Let us welcome *these* new members to this community of faith.

We rejoice with you in the life of baptism.

**Together we will give thanks and praise to God
and proclaim the good news to all the world.**

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.

Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

At each petition,

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

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

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.

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 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: **"Let Us Break Bread Together"**
(Spiritual, arr. Donald Busarow)

Offertory Response: "Create in Me a Clean Heart" **# 186**

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.

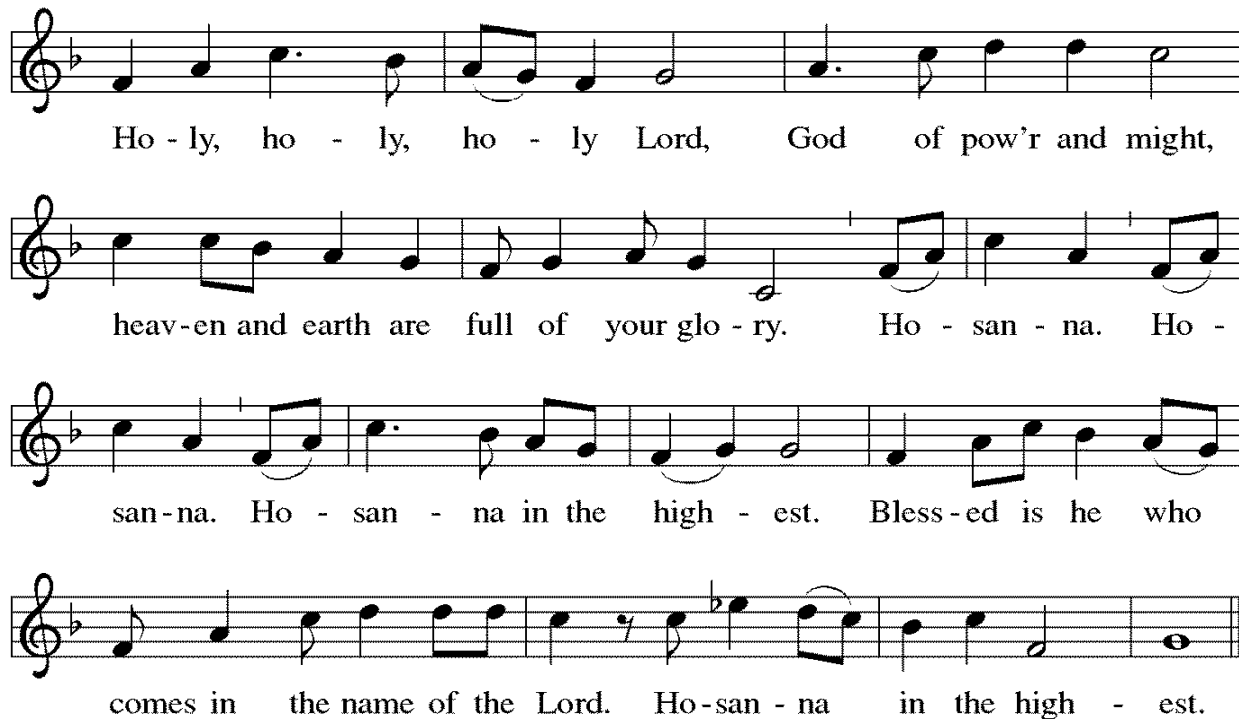
The presiding minister continues:

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

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 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.

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 “Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death” #452

- 1 Awake, O sleeper, rise from death,
and Christ shall give you light;
so learn his love, its length and breadth,
its fullness, depth, and height.**
- 2 To us on earth he came to bring
from sin and fear release,
to give the Spirit's unity,
the very bond of peace.**
- 3 There is one body and one hope,
one Spirit and one call,
one Lord, one faith, and one baptism,
one God who made us all.**
- 4 Then walk in love as Christ has loved,
who died that he might save;
with kind and gentle hearts forgive
as God in Christ forgave.**
- 5 For us Christ lived, for us he died,
and conquered in the strife.
Awake, arise, go forth in faith,
and Christ shall give you life.**

Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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BLESSED TO BLESS

SERVING TODAY: 9:30 AM

ACOLYTE Nathaniel Boggs

LECTOR Kim Woodley

WORSHIP ASSISTANT Rebecca Brunetta

ALTAR GUILD for March includes Kim Woodley and Linda Griffith.

PRAYER CONCERNS:

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER this week Brandie, Suzy, Terry, Doug, Dennis, Barry, Marsha, Broderick, Myron, Kris, Ray, Kim, Alan, Rachel, Jerry, Megan, Bill, Herman, Bobby, Patty, Hollie, Ernie, and the family of Don Cavanaugh.

THE ALTAR FLOWERS are given in honor of Marsha Danilko by Megan Zobb.

THE CHANCEL FLOWERS are given in memory of loved ones by Sue Boggs.

INDEPENDENCE HEALTH SYSTEM 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.

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.**

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE last Sunday was 88.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING today immediately following the worship service.

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

THE IRWIN MALE CHORUS will perform at Harrold Zion Lutheran Church TODAY at 6:00 PM. A free-will offering event. Please stay for refreshments after the concert.

LENTEN WORSHIP AND LUNCH 12:05 PM Thursday, March 19 at Zion's Lutheran Church. Menu is potato bacon chowder, applesauce muffins, and pudding cups.

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.

YOUTH SUNDAY MARCH 22

If you have a child who would like to participate in our upcoming Youth Sunday, please reach out to the office ASAP so we have time to prepare.

SWPA LDR – Upcoming Mission Trips

Youth – Save the Date – plans are being made for a trip to Johnstown, PA on July 5-8. This trip will end with a celebration with a group of youth coming from the Nebraska Synod to work in the Pittsburgh area. Registrations need to be completed by May 1.

If you are interested in either of these trips, please reach out to Pr. Chris for additional information.

SPRING TEA

Join us on April 25, 2026, at 1:00PM for Otterbein United Methodist Church's Spring Tea fundraiser.

There will be lots of fun, delicious food, and live musical entertainment. There will also be a silent auction with lots of options including golf passes, gift cards for local establishments, Steeler memorabilia, and more! Call Otterbein United Methodist Church Office at 724-834-4060 for tickets. Ticket cost is \$25. Bring a friend and come out for a time of fun and fellowship.



*Food
Pantry
Needs*

To stock **FOOD FROM the HEART (FFTH)**

cupboards we are asking for donations in the upcoming months:

- March** spaghetti sauce, diced tomatoes, or pasta
- April** chicken broth, beef broth, or creamed soups
- May** canned fruits, canned vegetables, or apple sauce

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE



March 29 Palm Sunday 8:15 & 10:45 AM

April 2 Maundy Thursday 6:00 PM

April 3 Good Friday 6:00 PM

April 4 Easter Vigil @ Good Shepherd 7:00 PM

501 Fairfield Drive

Greensburg, PA 15601

April 5 EASTER SUNDAY 8:15 & 10:45 AM

(No Sunday School)

CHRISTIAN OUTREACH is participating in the **NexTrex Recycling Challenge**. Before October 1, 2026, we hope to collect 1000 pounds of plastic bags. This plastic will be recycled into decking boards and First can earn a park bench made of these boards. There are collection bins located in the Fellowship Hall, Education Building, and the Narthex for you to deposit **your clean, dry, and free of food residue plastic bags.** Since October 2025, 356 pounds of plastic have been deposited and taken to Westmoreland Cleanways for recycling.

Do Not Include:

Frozen food bags, candy wrappers, chip bags, net or mesh bags, mulch or soil bags, degradable/compostable bags/film, pre-washed salad mix bags, pet food bags, hot dog or meat wrap packaging, six-pack rings, PPE gloves, masks or protective wear, pool covers, lamination film, silage and hay bags, vinyl shower curtains or table cloths, bedding or linen packaging, shiny, crinkly film like floral wrap or backyard ice rinks.

2026 LENTEN

CONGREGATIONAL PROJECT



Ash Wednesday was February 18, and our thoughts now turn to God and.....our Lenten Project! A collection of clean, gently used clothing will occur

from the 18th of February through Easter Sunday, to again be donated to the Community Clothes Closet at the Free Methodist Church in Greensburg. **Clothing can be dropped off on or beneath the table on the bathroom side of the Fellowship Hall.**

The Community Clothes Closet plays an important role in providing clothing to the county's children who have been displaced from their homes, often suddenly. This is where the Closet's greatest need lies. To assist with that need, a monetary collection will occur at the same time. If you find your closets are bare of unwanted clothing, consider a donation to help these children. Donations can be made via the yellow envelopes in the pews, with the designation Community Clothes Closet.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST:

Sunday – March 15 – Lent 4

9:30 – Worship

9:30 – Sunday School

Congregational meeting

Monday – March 16

Newsletter Deadline

1:30 & 6:00 Bible Study

Tuesday – March 17

6:30 – Finance

Wednesday – March 18

Food from the Heart

6:00 – Lenten Worship

6:30 – Handbells

6:30 – Christian Outreach

Thursday – March 19

8:00 – Foodbank

Sunday – March 22 – Lent 5

8:15 – Worship

9:30 – Sunday School

10:00 – Choir

10:45 – Worship

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.

*“... if we are faithless,
he remains faithful,
he cannot deny
himself.”
2 Timothy 2:13*

PIPES, PEALS, PIANO & PIZZA You are invited to enjoy music and pizza Sunday, March 22 at 4:00 PM. Performing will be jazz pianist Josh Beck; the FELC Handbell choir; Marc Tourre, baritone; Marvin Huls, organ. A pizza reception will be held in the Fellowship Hall following the one-hour concert. The event is free and open to the public.



ORDER LILIES FOR EASTER

Lilies will again decorate our church on Easter Sunday. You are invited to purchase a plant at a cost of \$15.00 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 23.**

Lilies Order

In honor of _____

By _____

and/or

In memory of _____

By _____

Amount enclosed \$ _____



JOIN OUR MARCH FOR PARKS TEAM!

We are organizing a First Lutheran TEAM to participate in the MARCH FOR PARKS on Saturday, March 28. The event will take place at Twin Lakes Park in Greensburg at the Activity Center. The March for Parks has raised funds for the County Parks and Trails for the past 24 years. There will be a pig roast and BBQ sandwiches, raffles, live entertainment, family friendly activities, and a “march” around Twin Lakes Park.

Make a \$30 donation online and receive an official March for Parks t-shirt at a discount (price increase for day-of registration). Kids can make a \$15 donation and receive a cool prize (price increase for day-of registration). Visit www.WestmorelandCountyPA.gov/MFP to donate using PayPal. Don't wait – donate early! Or arrive at Twin Lakes Park at 10:00 AM on March 28 and turn in your donations for the “First Lutheran” team.

As in the past, all funds raised by the First Lutheran Team will be matched by the Matching Gifts program. First Lutheran has been a strong participant ever since the March began in 2003 and has won many awards in the team competition. Funds raised at the March for Parks go directly to projects in our parks and trails, without spending tax dollars. Your donations go right back into our facilities that you use every day. Please join us on March 28! You will have fun, get some exercise, and show our community that First Lutheran is an active church committed to helping make Westmoreland County a better place to live and work!



**EASTER EGG HUNT
HOLY SATURDAY
April 4, 2026, 10:00 AM**

All children ages 12 and under are invited to come and hunt for Easter eggs at First Lutheran Church. Friends are invited to join you as well.

Name of child attending _____

Age _____ Phone # _____

Email address _____

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

