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.

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT March 3, 2024 8:15 AM & 10:45 AM

THE WORSHIP SERVICE

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

GATHERING

Prelude "Were You There" (Spiritual, arr. John Leavitt)

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.

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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 "Canticle of Turning" #723
1 My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great, and my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait. You fixed your sight on your servant's plight, and my weakness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my name be blest. Could the world be about to turn?

Refrain

My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn. Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.

- 2 Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me, and your mercy will last from the depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
 Your very name puts the proud to shame, and to those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the strong to flight, for the world is about to turn. *Refrain*
- 3 From the halls of pow'r to the fortress tow'r, not a stone will be left on stone. Let the king beware for your justice tears ev'ry tyrant from his throne. The hungry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can never earn; there are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn. *Refrain*
- 4 Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember who holds us fast: God's mercy must deliver us from the conqueror's crushing grasp. This saving word that our forebears heard is the promise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turning the world around. *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.

Holy God, through your Son you have called us to live faithfully and act courageously. Keep us steadfast in your covenant of grace, and teach us the wisdom that comes only 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 Exodus 20:1-17

¹God spoke all these words:

²I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; ³you shall have no other gods before me.

⁴You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, ⁶but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

⁷You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

⁸Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. ⁹Six days you shall labor and do all your work. ¹⁰But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. ¹¹For in six days the LORD made heaven and

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earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

¹²Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

¹³You shall not murder.

¹⁴You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵You shall not steal.

¹⁶You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

¹⁷You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

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

Psalm 19 (*Read responsively*)

¹The heavens declare the glo-[|] ry of God,

and the sky proclaims its | maker's handiwork.

²One day tells its tale | to another,

and one night imparts knowledge | to another.

³Although they have no [|] words or language, and their voices [|] are not heard,

⁴their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends | of the world,

where God has pitched a tent | for the sun.

⁵It comes forth like a bridegroom out [|] of his chamber;

it rejoices like a champion to [|] run its course.

⁶It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of | it again;

nothing is hidden from its | burning heat.

⁷The teaching of the LORD is perfect and re-[|] vives the soul;

the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to [|] the simple.

⁸The statutes of the LORD are just and re-¹ joice the heart;

the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light [|] to the eyes.

⁹The fear of the LORD is clean and en-[|] dures forever;

the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous | altogether.

¹⁰More to be desired are they than gold, more than [|] much fine gold,

sweeter far than honey, than honey | in the comb.

¹¹By them also is your ser- [|] vant enlightened,

and in keeping them there is | great reward.

¹²Who can detect one's [|] own offenses?

Cleanse me from my | secret faults.

¹³Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion [|] over me;

then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a | great offense.

¹⁴Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable | in your sight,

O LORD, my strength and | my redeemer.

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

¹⁸The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written,

"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,

and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." ²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

The Word of the Lord.

R/Thanks be to God!

Gospel Acclamation



Gospel **John 2:13-22**

P: The Holy Gospel according to John the 2nd chapter.
R/ Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. ¹⁵Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" ¹⁷His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." ¹⁸The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" ¹⁹Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." ²⁰The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" ²¹But he was speaking of the temple of his body. ²²After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

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

Youth Sermon (10:45 AM)

Sermon

Hymn "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" #803

- 1 When I survey the wondrous cross on which the prince of glory died, my richest gain I count but loss and pour contempt on all my pride.
- 2 Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast save in the death of Christ, my God; all the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to his blood.
- 3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down. Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?
- 4 Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small; love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.

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 "Lamb of God, Most Holy" (arr. Michael Burkhart)

10:45 **"The Kingdom of the Lord"** (Natalie Sleeth)

If you would my disciple be, take up your cross and follow me, and together we will bring in the kingdom of the Lord. If you would set the world aright, then walk with me and seek the light, and together we will bring in the kingdom of the Lord. Where peace shall reign from shore to shore, and love will triumph evermore. So come with me and find the way, it lies before us day by day, and together we will bring in the kingdom of the Lord.



Offertory Prayer (in unison)

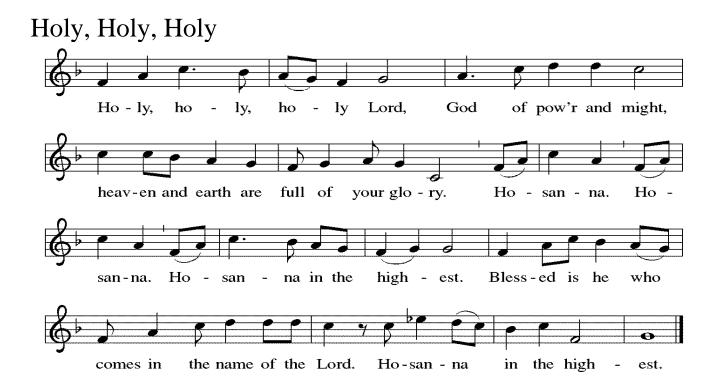
Let us pray.

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:



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 "Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways" #772

- 1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways to keep his statutes still! Oh, that my God would grant me grace to know and do his will!
- 2 Order my footsteps by your word and make my heart sincere; let sin have no dominion, Lord, but keep my conscience clear.
- 3 Assist my soul, too apt to stray, a stricter watch to keep; and should I e'er forget your way, restore your wand'ring sheep.
- 4 Make me to walk in your commands, 'tis a delightful road; nor let my head or heart or hands offend against my God.

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 Benjamin Gustafson.

LECTORS are Dave von Schlichten and Tawnya Combs.

WORSHIP ASSISTANT is Carolyn Hanzel.

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, the family of Joyce Roger, and the family of Robert Thomas, Jr. and the Nesbella family.

THE ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God by Barry and Beverly Attenberger.

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.

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." Psalm 46:1

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

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

CHOIR REHEARSAL 10:00 AM today.

NOISY OFFERING for April will be donated to Street Outreach organized by Seton Hill University's School of Physical Therapy. The group hopes to meet the needs of and provide medical care to individuals who are unhoused or experiencing rough sleeping. Currently they only consist of physical therapists and other non-clinicians, but as they assess the needs of the community, they plan to reach out to other medical providers to ask them to participate as well. They are modeling themselves after Street Medicine which was founded in Pittsburgh over 30 years ago. It is now an international community of providers, but its roots started in Western PA and we would like to expand the outreach in our region beyond Pittsburgh. If you are interested in learning more about Street Medicine, you can check out their website: https://www.streetmedicine.org/.

EXECUTIVE 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.

ANGEL FOOD CAKES (home baked or purchased) are needed the first Sunday of every month for Meals on Wheels. Bring your cake to the church office. Thank you!

SPRING AHEAD Remember to turn your clocks AHEAD Saturday night, March 9!

RUTH CIRCLE will meet Thursday, 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 106.

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

"You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor. – **Exodus 20:17**

God commands what *not* to do but expects us *to do* the opposite in grateful response to divine abundance. Instead of coveting what others have, we are to cultivate a spirit of generosity that helps us love and serve our neighbors.



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 5 new winterized cabins, repair the amphitheater, remove old cabins, improve roads, and add 5 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.

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

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 \$	



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

.....

Easter Egg Hunt

RESERVATION DUE BY

Wednesday, March 27, 2023

NAME OF CHILD _____

AGE_____ PHONE NUMBER_____

EMAIL ADDRESS_____

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

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 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.