

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.

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 27, 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

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.**

Hymn “Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds” #367

**1 Now all the vault of heav'n resounds
in praise of love that still abounds:
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"
Sing, choirs of angels, loud and clear!
Repeat their song of glory here:
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**2 Eternal is the gift he brings,
therefore our heart with rapture sings:
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"
Now still he comes to give us life
and by his presence stills all strife.
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**3 Oh, fill us, Lord, with dauntless love;
set heart and will on things above
that we conquer through your triumph;
grant grace sufficient for life's day
that by our lives we truly say:
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**4 Adoring praises now we bring
and with the heav'nly blessed sing:
"Christ has triumphed! Alleluia!"
Be to the Father, and our Lord,
to Spirit blest, most holy God,
all the glory, never ending!
Alleluia, alleluia, 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.

O God of life, you reach out to us amid our fears with the wounded hands of your risen Son. By your Spirit's breath revive our faith in your mercy, and strengthen us to be the body of your Son, 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 **Acts 5:27-32**

²⁷ When they had brought [the apostles,] they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, ²⁸ saying, “We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man’s blood on us.” ²⁹ But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than any human authority. ³⁰ The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. ³¹ God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. ³² And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.”

The Word of the Lord.

R/Thanks be to God!

¹⁴ The Lord is my strength¹ and my song,
and has become¹ my salvation.

¹⁵ **Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents¹ of the righteous:**

“The right hand of the¹ Lord acts valiantly!

¹⁶ The right hand of the Lord¹ is exalted!
The right hand of the¹ Lord acts valiantly!”

¹⁷ **I shall not¹ die, but live,
and declare the works¹ of the Lord.**

¹⁸ The Lord indeed pun-¹ished me sorely,
but did not hand me o-¹ver to death.

¹⁹ **Open for me the¹ gates of righteousness;
I will enter them and give thanks¹ to the Lord.**

²⁰ “This is the gate¹ of the Lord;
here the righ-¹teous may enter.”

²¹ **I give thanks to you, for you have¹ answered me
and you have become¹ my salvation.**

²² The stone that the build-¹ers rejected
has become the chief¹ cornerstone.

²³ **By the Lord has¹ this been done;
it is marvelous¹ in our eyes.**

²⁴ This is the day that the¹ Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be¹ glad in it.

²⁵ **Hosanna!¹ O Lord, save us!
We pray to you, Lord, pros-¹per our days!**

²⁶ Blessed is the one who comes in the name¹ of the Lord;
we bless you from the house¹ of the Lord.

²⁷ **The Lord is God and has giv-¹en us light.**

Form a procession with branches up to the corners¹ of the altar.

²⁸ You are my God, and¹ I will thank you;
you are my God, and I¹ will exalt you.

²⁹ **Give thanks to the Lord, for the¹ Lord is good;
God’s mercy en-¹dures forever.**

⁴ John to the seven churches that are in Asia:

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, ⁵ and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, ⁶ and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

⁷ Look! He is coming with the clouds;

every eye will see him,

even those who pierced him;

and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail.

So it is to be. Amen.

⁸ “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

The Word of the Lord.

R/Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe. ***Alleluia.***

Gospel

John 20:19-31

P: The Holy Gospel according to John the twentieth chapter.

R/ Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then

the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

²⁶A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” ²⁸Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

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

Youth Sermon

Sermon

Hymn “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!” #385

- 1 Good Christian friends, rejoice and sing!
Now is the triumph of our king!
To all the world glad news we bring:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**
- 2 The Lord of life is ris'n this day;
death's mighty stone is rolled away;
let all the world rejoice and say:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**
- 3 Praise we in songs of victory
that love, that life, which cannot die,
and sing with hearts uplifted high:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**
- 4 Your name we bless, O risen Lord,
and sing today with one accord,
the life laid down, the life restored:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

(8:15)

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.

(10:45)

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM (10:45)

In baptism our gracious heavenly Father frees us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity; by water and the Holy Spirit we are reborn children of God and made members of the church, the body of Christ. Living with Christ and in the communion of saints, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God.

Sponsors for each candidate, in turn, present the candidates:

We present *Elaine Ceilidh Reilly* for baptism.

The presiding minister addresses parents or others who bring for baptism children who are not able to answer for themselves:

Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have *your child* baptized into Christ?

***Response:* I do.**

As you bring *your child* to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:

to live with *her* among God's faithful people,
bring *her* to the word of God and the holy supper,
teach *her* the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in *her* hands the holy scriptures,
and nurture *her* in faith and prayer,
so that *she* may learn to trust God,
proclaim Christ through word and deed,
care for others and the world God made,
and work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help *Elaine* grow in the Christian faith and life?

***Response:* I do.**

The presiding minister addresses sponsors:

Sponsors, do you promise to nurture *Elaine* in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help her live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

***Response:* I do.**

The assembly stands. The presiding minister addresses the assembly:

People of God, do you promise to support *Elaine* and pray for *her* in *her* new life in Christ?

***Response:* We do.**

PROFESSION OF FAITH

The presiding minister addresses candidates for baptism as well as the parents and sponsors of young children. The assembly may join in the responses.

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

***Response:* I renounce them.**

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

***Response:* I renounce them.**

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

***Response:* I renounce them.**

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

The assembly may be seated.

BAPTISM

Elaine Ceilidh Reilly, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

Sustain *Elaine* with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. **Amen.**

Elaine child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. **Amen.**

Let your light so shine before others
that they may see your good works
and glorify your Father in heaven.

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share:

**join us in giving thanks and praise to God
and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.**

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,

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

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

Offertory Response:

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful *Offering Song*

Musical notation for the Offertory Response, consisting of five staves of music in G major, 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes.

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.

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.

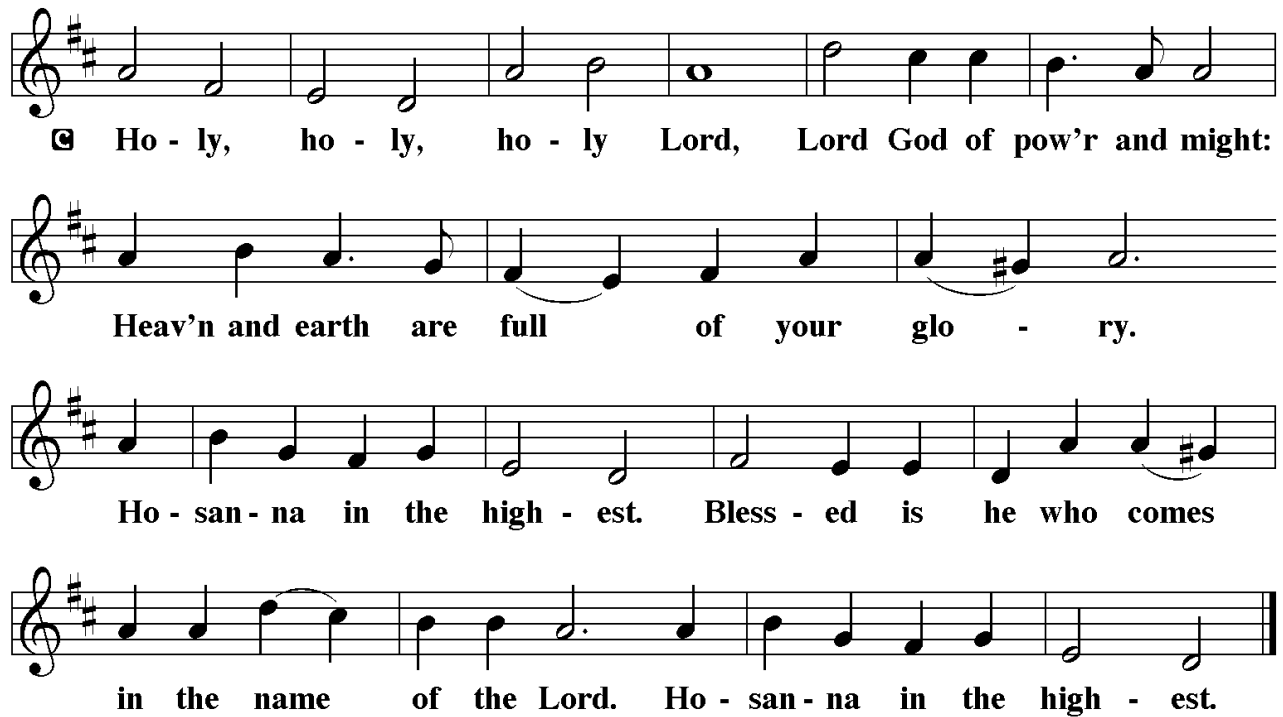
We lift them to the Lord.

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread. Come, 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.

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 “That Easter Day With Joy Was Bright” #384

That Easter day with joy was bright; the sun shone out with fairer light

When to their longing eyes restored, the apostles saw their risen Lord!

**O Jesus, king of gentleness, with constant love our hearts possess;
To you our lips will ever raise the tribute of our grateful praise.**

**O Christ, you are the Lord of all in this our Easter festival,
For you will be our strength and shield from ev'ry weapon death can wield.**

**All praise, O risen Lord, we give to you, once dead, but now alive!
To God the Father equal praise, and God the Spirit, now we raise!**

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

Molly Boggs

LECTORS

Liz Rowe

Dan Krack

WORSHIP ASSISTANT

Kim Woodley

Tawnya Combs

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, Willis, Alexander, Frank, and Larry.

THE ALTAR FLOWERS are given in memory of Maurice C. and June E. Barnhart by their family.

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

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

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

TODAY WE CELEBRATE the baptism of Elaine Ceilidh Reilly, daughter of Jesse Reilly and Jessie Urban and welcome her into the family of First Lutheran.

THANKS to Mary Smaligo for serving as organist today.

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE last Sunday morning was 217.

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

NOISY OFFERING for May 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/>.

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!

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 27 – Second Sunday of Easter

8:15 – Worship

9:00 – Continental Breakfast

9:30 – Sunday School

10:45 – Worship

Monday – April 28

Bible Study – Parables of Jesus

1:30 and 6 pm

Tuesday – April 29

10:00 – Newsletter Folding

6:00 – Executive

6:30 – VBS Planning

Wednesday – April 30

12:00 – Food From the Heart

6:30 - Property

Saturday – May 3

5 pm Worship in the Park

6 pm Picnic in the Park following worship

Sunday – May 4 – Third Sunday of Easter

8:15 – Worship

9:00 – Continental Breakfast

9:30 – Sunday School

10:45 – Worship

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

Psalm 34:8

Stewardship Snippets

John 20:19 – *“On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, ‘Peace be with you.’ ”*

Fear is the opposite of faith. That is, the kind of cringing fear we have in the face of something that is hostile to us and more powerful than we are. Jesus spends a lot of His time telling the disciples to not be afraid. Our fears constantly hem us in and prevent us from following the Lord’s will. But there is no need to fear. Jesus has conquered. No fear can keep us locked up. We have been set free by Jesus for lives that declare His marvelous deeds.

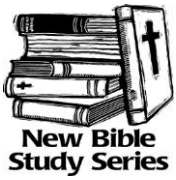
SWPA WOMEN of the ELCA CLUSTERS 3 and 4 SPRING MEETING May 3, 2025 at St. Paul’s Highfield Lutheran Church, 1595 Dime Rd., Vandergrift, PA 15690. Registration and refreshments at 8:45 AM; Worship at 9:30 AM and lunch at Noon (luncheon fee is \$10.00). Here is a chance to learn about gardening, have fellowship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

FROM THE CHRISTIAN OUTREACH TEAM:

We are trying to determine the level of interest and availability of people for a possible Habitat for Humanity project on Saturday, July 19, 2025. There are no specifics as yet. If you are interested, please sign on the line below and send to the Church Office or drop it in the collection plate.

Name : _____

is interested in helping with the Habitat for Humanity Project on July 19, 2025.



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!

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

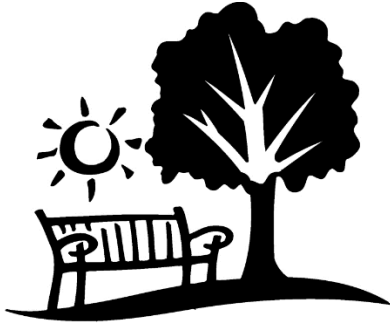
Once again for Mother's Day (May 11th) members of the Christian Outreach Team suggest a fitting way to honor and remember your/any mother.

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.

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.

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.