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 AFTER PENTECOST

June 2, 2024 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

What A Friend We Have In Jesus (arr. Susan Geschke)
FELC Handbell Choir

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

H 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 "Gather Us In" #532

Here in this place the new light is streaming, now is the darkness vanished away; see in this space our fears and our dreamings brought here to you in the light of this day. Gather us in, the lost and forsaken, gather us in, the blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall awaken, we shall arise at the sound of our name.

- We are the young, our lives are a myst'ry, we are the old who yearn for your face; we have been sung throughout all of hist'ry, called to be light to the whole human race. Gather us in, the rich and the haughty, gather us in, the proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so lowly, give us the courage to enter the song.
- Here we will take the wine and the water, here we will take the bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daughters, call us anew to be salt for the earth. Give us to drink the wine of compassion, give us to eat the bread that is you; nourish us well, and teach us to fashion lives that are holy and hearts that are true.
- A Not in the dark of buildings confining, not in some heaven, light years away—here in this place the new light is shining, now is the kingdom, and now is the day. Gather us in and hold us forever, gather us in and make us your own; gather us in, all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

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



Prayer of the Day

The presiding minister leads the prayer of the day.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

Almighty and ever-living God, throughout time you free the oppressed, heal the sick, and make whole all that you have made. Look with compassion on the world wounded by sin, and by your power restore us to wholeness of life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

The assembly is seated.

WORD

First Reading **Deuteronomy 5:12-15**

¹²Observe the sabbath day and keep it holy, as the LORD your God commanded you. ¹³Six days you shall labor and do all your work. ¹⁴But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, or your son or your daughter, or your male or female slave, or your ox or your donkey, or any of your livestock, or the resident alien in your towns, so that your male and female slave may rest as well as you. ¹⁵Remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God brought you out from there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm; therefore the LORD your God commanded you to keep the sabbath day.

The Word of the Lord.

R/Thanks be to God!

Psalm 81:1-10

(Read Responsively)

¹Sing with joy to [|] God our strength and raise a loud shout to the [|] God of Jacob.

²Raise a song and | sound the timbrel, the merry harp, | and the lyre.

³Blow the ram's horn at | the new moon, and at the full moon, the day | of our feast;

⁴for this is a stat- | ute for Israel, a law of the | God of Jacob.

⁵God laid it as a solemn charge upon Joseph, going out over the | land of Egypt,

where I heard a voice I | did not know:

⁶"I eased your shoulder | from the burden; your hands were set free from the grave- | digger's basket.

⁷You called on me in trouble, and I de- | livered you;

I answered you from the secret place of thunder and tested you at the wa- | ters of Meribah.

⁸Hear, O my people, and I will ad- monish you:

O Israel, if you would but lis- ten to me!

⁹There shall be no strange | god among you; you shall not worship a | foreign god.

¹⁰I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the | land of Egypt.

Open your mouth wide, and | I will fill it.

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 4:5-12

⁵We do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. ⁶For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

⁷But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. ⁸We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; ⁹persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; ¹⁰always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies. ¹¹For while we live, we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be made visible in our mortal flesh. ¹²So death is at work in us, but life in you.

The Word of the Lord.

R/Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia. Your word, O Lord, is truth; sanctify us in the truth. Alleluia

Gospel

Mark 2:23—3:6

P: The Holy Gospel according to Mark the second chapter.

R/Glory to you, O Lord.

²³One sabbath [Jesus] was going through the grainfields; and as they made their way his disciples began to pluck heads of grain. ²⁴The Pharisees said to him, "Look, why are they doing what is not lawful on the sabbath?" ²⁵And he said to them, "Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry and in need of food? ²⁶He entered the house of God, when Abiathar was high priest, and ate the bread of the Presence, which it is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and he gave some to his companions." ²⁷Then he said to them, "The sabbath was made for humankind, and not humankind for the sabbath; ²⁸so the Son of Man is lord even of the sabbath."

^{3:1}Again he entered the synagogue, and a man was there who had a withered hand. ²They watched him to see whether he would cure him on the sabbath, so that they might accuse him. ³And he said to the man who had the withered hand, "Come forward." ⁴Then he said to them, "Is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the sabbath, to save life or to kill?" But they were silent. ⁵He looked around at them with anger; he was grieved at their hardness of heart and said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out, and his hand was restored. ⁶The Pharisees went out and immediately conspired with the Herodians against him, how to destroy him.

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

Youth Sermon

Sermon

Hymn "What Is This Place" #524

- 1 What is this place where we are meeting?
 Only a house, the earth its floor.
 Walls and a roof sheltering people,
 windows for light, an open door.
 Yet it becomes a body that lives
 when we are gathered here,
 and know our God is near.
- 2 Words from afar, stars that are falling, sparks that are sown in us like seed: names for our God, dreams, signs, and wonders sent from the past are all we need. We in this place remember and speak again what we have heard: God's free redeeming word.
- 3 And we accept bread at this table, broken and shared, a living sign. Here in this world, dying and living, we are each other's bread and wine. This is the place where we can receive what we need to increase: our justice and God's peace.

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

Blessing of Graduates and Blankets

Friends in Christ: Today we give thanks to God and seek God's blessing as we recognize our graduates, blessing them and their blankets.

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. You made the whole earth for your glory; all creation praises you. We lift our voices to join the songs of heaven and earth, of things seen and unseen. You stretched out the heavens like a tent; you divided the day from the night; you appointed times and seasons for work and rest, for tearing down and building up.

We offer our praise to you in thanksgiving for the many blessings you have given us.

Renew in us the commitment

to use our gifts in the service of others, and especially of those in need. Let us be your hands to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, clothe the naked, comfort the weary and outcast, welcome the stranger, care for creation, and be loving neighbors to all people.

Bless these graduates.

Prosper the work of their hands and their minds.

May the gifts they use be a reminder to them of all the blessings you have provided, and may their stewardship of those gifts be signs for those around them, that you love all people.

Bless also these blankets. May they bring warmth to our graduates and remind them of your love for them and the love of their family here at First.

To you, O God, be glory and honor through your Son, Jesus Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, in your church and in the world, now and forever.

Amen.

Prayers of the Church

To stay current with our many continuing prayer needs, we will refresh our prayer list at the beginning of each new month by starting with a clean slate. We understand that many people will continue to need prayer beyond the length of one month. If you wish to continue to have someone listed in the bulletin for public prayer, please call the office by the last Wednesday of the month.

We come before the triune God to pray for our communities, ourselves, and our world.

At each petition, Merciful God, receive our prayer.

The presiding minister concludes the prayers with these words. Receive our prayers, O God, and come quickly to our aid, through the power of the Spirit and the love of Jesus Christ.

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.

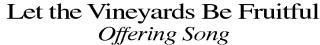
Thank you for your generous support of First's Ministry.

(Children, please bring your offering to the front of the church and place it in the "Thank You Jesus" Jar.)

Offertory

Largo (G.F. Handel, 1685-1759)

Offertory Response:





Offertory Prayer (in unison)

Let us pray.

God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things at your table, that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer 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.

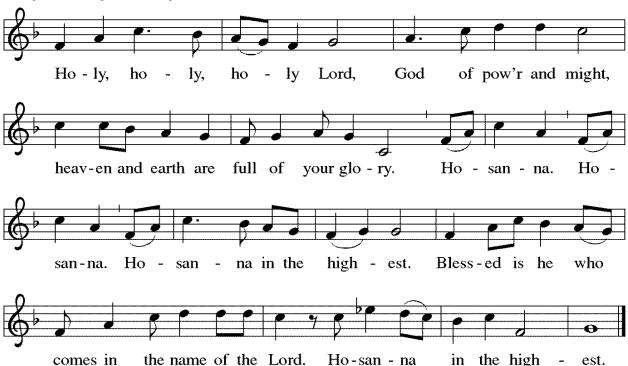
We lift them to the Lord.

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, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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



Thanksgiving at the Table

The presiding minister continues, using one of the following.

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, 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.

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 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.

Gracious God, in this meal you have drawn us to your heart, and nourished us at your table with food and drink, the body and blood of Christ. Now send us forth to be your people in the world, and to proclaim your truth this day and evermore, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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 "The Church of Christ, in Every Age" #729

- 1 The church of Christ, in ev'ry age beset by change, but Spirit-led, must claim and test its heritage and keep on rising from the dead.
- 2 Across the world, across the street, the victims of injustice cry for shelter and for bread to eat, and never live before they die.
- 3 Then let the servant church arise, a caring church that longs to be a partner in Christ's sacrifice, and clothed in Christ's humanity.
- 4 For he alone, whose blood was shed, can cure the fever in our blood, and teach us how to share our bread and feed the starving multitude.
- 5 We have no mission but to serve in full obedience to our Lord; to care for all, without reserve, and spread his liberating word.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

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BLESSED TO BLESS

SERVING TODAY:

ACOLYTE is Molly Boggs.

LECTOR is Rebecca Brunetta.

WORSHIP ASSISTANT is Rebecca Brunetta.

SERVING IN JUNE:

ALTAR GUILD for June includes Dianna Marusko, Carolyn Hanzel, and Sue Ross.

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above...."

James 1:17

PRAYER CONCERNS:

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER this week Brandie, Suzy, Terry, Joyce, Cullen, Doug, Gavin, Dennis, Mike and his family, Julie and her family, Willis, Connie, Caroline, Mark, Larry, Christopher, Nikkell, Dean, Bobbie, Debbie, Judy, Sandy, Ted, Jeff, Jan, Karen, and the family of Landon Redpath.

THE ALTAR FLOWERS are given in memory of Al Danilko by Marsha Danilko and Megan Zobb.

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.

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

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

Thanks to members of the FELC Handbell Choir for their service this year: Pastor Chris Combs, Tom Flory, David Zaccari, William Pfeifer, Charla Keffer, Shirley Huls, Rebecca Brunetta, Tawnya Combs, Sue Boggs, Cheryl Pfeifer, Elizabeth Rowe, Suzy Flory and substitute ringers Bonnie Zaccari, Nancy Peters, and Eric Combs.

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE. Word and Sacrament at 9:30 AM. No Sunday School.

NOISY OFFERING for June will be donated to Camp Agape which is an outdoor ministry of the Lutheran Church, providing summer camping programs and retreat facilities. Located in southwestern Pennsylvania approximately 35 miles southwest of Pittsburgh, Camp Agape has over 250 acres of rolling hills, fields, and forest. The natural setting allows you to enjoy the beauty and wonder of God's creation while experiencing an intentional Christian community.

Camp Agape is a place where God's children from 5 to 95 come to learn about themselves, the world in which we live, and our God who created and creates all; a place where children come to explore and experience talents they don't know they have, skills they start to develop, confidence they gain to face the world to which they return, affirmation they receive that God loves them as they are and encourages them to grow into what they can become.

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!

ATTENDANCE last Sunday was 72.

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).

ALTAR FLOWERS are needed for June 23. Contact the church office if you would like to provide altar flowers. Cost is \$50.00.

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

ALTAR FLOWER CANS: Altar Care needs cans for the flowers. Please donate large empty juice cans for the altar flowers. Please drop them off in the church office.

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.

SUMMER SOLOISTS:

June 9	Marc Tourre, baritone
June 16	Sam Specht-Burns, violin
June 23	Rob Lynch, organist
June 30	Heather Nabuda, soprano
July 14	Michele Boulet, flute
July 21	Josh Beck, jazz piano
August 11	Crystal Stryker & Rick Carson, vocal duet

Stewardship Snippets

Deuteronomy 5:12 – Observe the Sabbath day and keep it holy, as the LORD your God commanded you.

Do you need a break? In today's nonstop, 24/7 world, we need Deuteronomy's reminder that God actually commands us to stop working one day a week. Sabbath literally means "stop." Good stewards maintain a good work/life balance. What would a "Holy stoppage" look like for you?

FIRST LUTHERAN AND ZION'S LUTHERAN VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL "JUNGLE JOURNEY"

June 17-20

9:15 AM – 12PM

Drop off begins at 9 AM PreK – 5th Grade

Held at First Lutheran Church 246 South Main Street, Greensburg, PA 15601

REGISTRATION AND EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Child's Name		Male	Female
Last School Grade Completed			
Parent/Guardian Name			
Street Address			
City			
Home phone	Parent/Guardian	cell	
Parent/Guardian email address			
Primary Emergency Contact:			
Name			
Relationship to child			
Phone number			
Any known food allergies			
Any other allergies or medical con	nditions		
Any current medications			
Signed	Da	ate	
By initialing below, you are allow Churches to take photos of your cincluded on our church websites a Guardian Initials	hild or loved one. and/or social media	These ph	



HONOR FATHER'S....SAVE OTHERS!

Once again for Father's Day (June 16th) members of the Christian Outreach Team suggest a fitting way to honor and remember your/any father.

Around our planet, our brothers and sisters may not know of America's Father's Day but fathers they know may very well be experiencing war, hunger, poverty, calamities of weather or any combination of these.

Honor your father(s) with a gift to Lutheran Disaster Relief in amounts of \$15.00 or more if you can. Lutheran Disaster Relief has a long-established track record for helping where it is needed most.

A member of the Christian Outreach Team will be in the education building foyer after the worship services on Sunday, June 9th, and June 16th for you to make your gifts. You may also make gifts during the week through the church office.

Write out a check payable to First Lutheran Church (or you can give cash). You can write **Father's Day** on the memo line and place it in an envelope and write **Father's Day** on the outside of the envelope.

Name of father(s) you are honoring/remembering:	
Given by	

Please include the following information: