FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

246 South Main Street
Greensburg, Pennsylvania
724-834-1457

Office hours: Monday through Friday, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

office@felchurch.org

Chris Combs — Pastor
Marvin J. Huls — 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.

ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 9, 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 **Shall We Gather at the River**
(arr. Dale Wood)

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 "Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me" #755

1 Jesus, Savior, pilot me
over life's tempestuous sea;
unknown waves before me roll,
hiding rock and treach'rous shoal;
chart and compass come from thee.
Jesus, Savior, pilot me.

2 As a mother stills her child,
thou canst hush the ocean wild;
boist'rous waves obey thy will
when thou say'st to them: "Be still."
Wondrous sov'reign of the sea,
Jesus, Savior, pilot me.

3 When at last I near the shore,
and the fearful breakers roar
twixt me and the peaceful rest,
then, while leaning on thy breast,
may I hear thee say to me:
"Fear not, I will pilot thee."

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.

O God our defender, storms rage around and within us and cause us to be afraid. Rescue your people from despair, deliver your sons and daughters from fear, and preserve us in the faith of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior, and Lord. Amen

The assembly is seated.

WORD

First Reading **1 Kings 19:9-18**

9 At [Horeb, the mount of God,][Elijah] came to a cave, and spent the night there.

Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" 10 Elijah answered, "I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away."

11 The Lord said, "Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by." Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; 12 and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. 13 When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" 14 He answered, "I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away." 15 Then the Lord said to him, "Go, return on

your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. [16] Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel; and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place. [17] Whoever escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu shall kill; and whoever escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha shall kill. [18] Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him."

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

Psalm 85:8-13 *(Read Responsively)*

[8] I will listen to what the Lord | God is saying;
for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their | hearts to you.
[9] **Truly, your salvation is very near to | those who fear you,**
that your glory may dwell | in our land.
[10] Steadfast love and faithfulness have | met together;
righteousness and peace have | kissed each other.
[11] **Faithfulness shall spring up | from the earth,**
and righteousness shall look | down from heaven.
[12] The Lord will indeed | grant prosperity,
and our land will | yield its increase.
[13] **Righteousness shall go be- | fore the Lord**
and shall prepare for | God a pathway.

Second Reading **Romans 10:5-15**

[5] Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that "the person who does these things will live by them." [6] But the righteousness that comes from faith says, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?' " (that is, to bring Christ down) [7] "or 'Who will descend into the abyss?' " (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). [8] But what does it say?
"The word is near you,
on your lips and in your heart"

(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); [9] because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. [10] For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. [11] The scripture says, "No one who believes in the Lord will be put to shame." [12] For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who ask for help. [13] For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

[14] But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to preach? [15] And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia.* I wait for you, O Lord; in your word is my hope. *Alleluia.

Gospel **Matthew 14: 22-33**

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the fourteenth chapter.

R/ Glory to you, O Lord.

[22] [Jesus] made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, while he dismissed the crowds.[23] And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, [24] but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. [25] And early in the morning Jesus came walking toward them on the sea. [26] But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. [27] But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, here I am; do not be afraid."

[28] Peter answered him, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you
on the water.” [29] He said, “Come.” So Peter got out of the boat, started
walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. [30] But when Peter noticed
the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried
out, “Lord, save me!” [31] Jesus immediately reached out his hand and
caught him, saying to him, “You of little faith, why did you
doubt?” [32] When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. [33] And those in
the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”

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

Youth Sermon

Sermon

Hymn “Eternal Father, Strong to Save” #756

1 Eternal Father, strong to save,
whose arm has bound the restless wave,
who bade the mighty ocean deep
its own appointed limits keep:
oh, hear us when we cry to thee
for those in peril on the sea.

2 O Savior, whose almighty word
the winds and waves submissive heard,
who walked upon the foaming deep,
and calm amid the storm didst sleep:
oh, hear us when we cry to thee
for those in peril on the sea.

3 O Holy Spirit, who didst brood
upon the chaos dark and rude,
and bid its angry tumult cease,
and give, for wild confusion, peace:
oh, hear us when we cry to thee
for those in peril on the sea.

4 O Trinity of love and pow'r,
all trav'lers guard in danger's hour
from rock and tempest, fire, and foe,
protect them wheresoe'er they go;
thus evermore shall rise to thee
glad hymns and praise from land and sea.

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

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.

With bold trust in God's unfailing provision, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

At each petition,
Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

The presiding minister concludes the prayers with these words.
Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised. All this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
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.

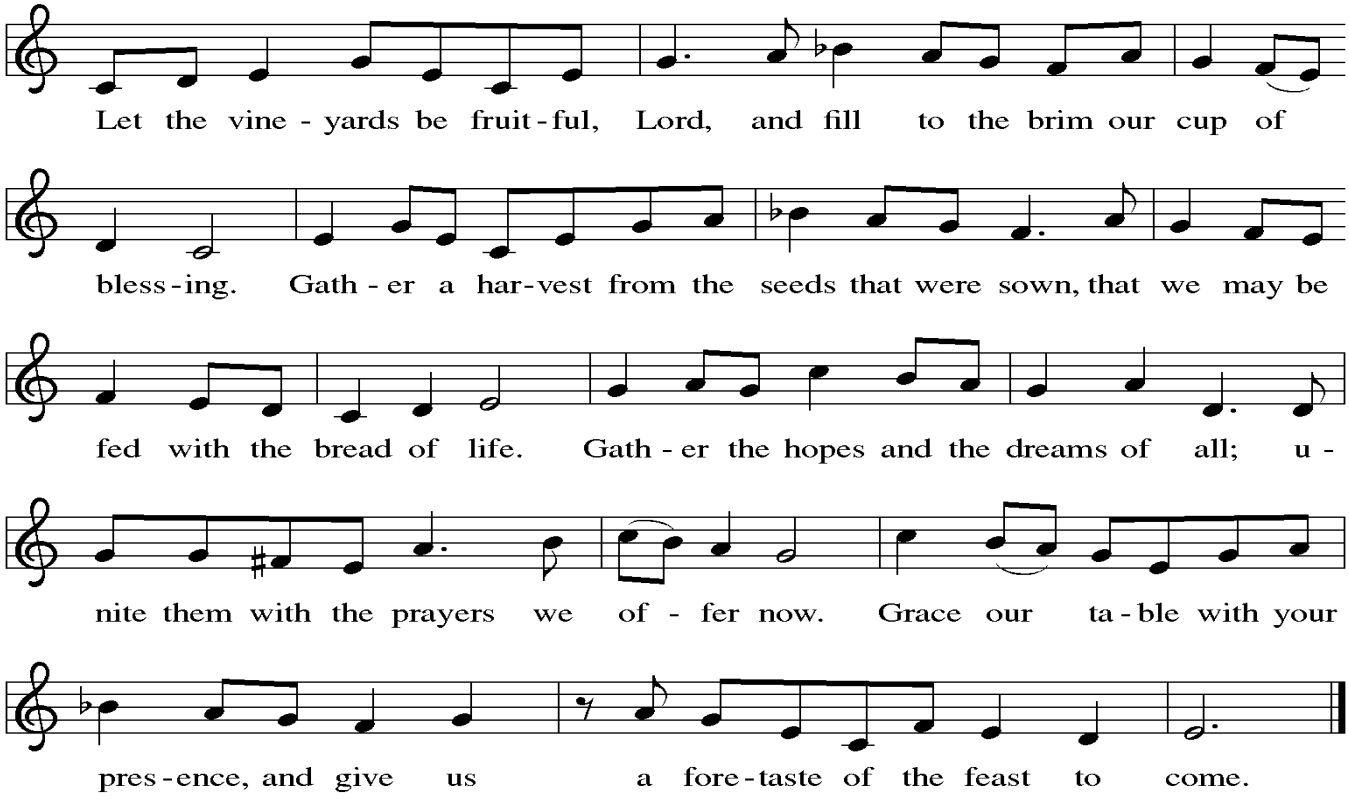
(Children, please bring your offering to the front of the church and place it in the "Thank You Jesus" Jar.)

Offertory Improvisation on **"Deep River"**

Offertory Response:

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

Offering Song



Offertory Prayer (in unison)

Let us pray.
God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

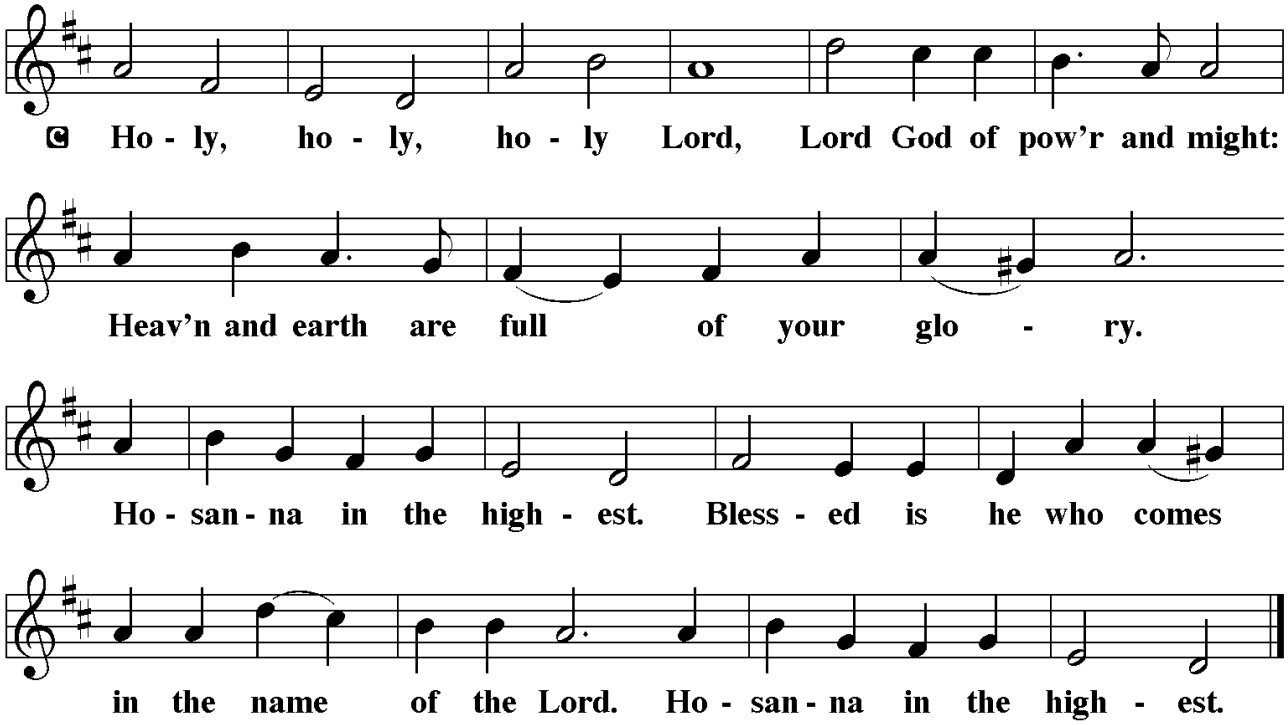
Great Thanksgiving

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,
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. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The gifts of God for the people of God. 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.
O God, our life, our strength, our food, we give you thanks for sustaining us with the body and blood of your Son. By your Holy Spirit, enliven us to be his body in the world, that more and more we will give you praise and serve your earth and its many peoples, 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.
The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace. **Amen.**

Hymn "What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine" #774

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

1 What a fellowship, what a joy divine,
leaning on the everlasting arms;
what a blessedness, what a peace is mine,
leaning on the everlasting arms.

Refrain

Leaning, leaning, *(Leaning on Jesus, leaning on Jesus,)*
safe and secure from all alarms;
leaning, leaning, *(leaning on Jesus, leaning on Jesus,)*
leaning on the everlasting arms.

2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,
leaning on the everlasting arms;
oh, how bright the path grows from day to day,
leaning on the everlasting arms. ***Refrain***

Refrain

Leaning, leaning, ***(Leaning on Jesus, leaning on Jesus,)***
safe and secure from all alarms;
leaning, leaning, ***(leaning on Jesus, leaning on Jesus,)***
leaning on the everlasting arms.

3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear,
leaning on the everlasting arms?
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,
leaning on the everlasting arms. ***Refrain***

Dismissal

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

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BLESSED TO BLESS

SERVING TODAY: **9:30 AM**

ACOLYTE Robbie Jefferson

LECTOR Sunshine Keiser

WORSHIP ASSISTANT Rebecca Brunetta

ALTAR GUILD for August includes Dianna Marusko, Carolyn Hanzel, and Cindy Bell.

PRAYER CONCERNS:

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER this week Brandie, Suzy, Terry, Doug, Dennis, Barry, Marsha, Kris, Ray, Mike, Judy, Jared, Lily, Andy, Sue, and Hollie.

THE ALTAR FLOWERS are given in memory of Burnell and Betty Long by the Long 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 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:

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE last Sunday was 78.

NOISY OFFERING for Lutheran Summer Music was $200.

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.

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED to set up and clean up for our Saturday Evening Worship in the Park. A sign-up sheet is in the Narthex.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST:

Sunday – August 9 – Pentecost 11

9:30 – Worship

Wednesday – August 5

12:00 – Food From the Heart

Thursday – August 13

6:00 – Dinner before Trivia

7:00 – Trivia Night

Sunday – August 16 – Pentecost 12

9:30 – Worship

Dishes...

A dedicated group of ladies have cleaned out the kitchen and identified a number of items that are no longer needed. This includes a large number of dishes. Please take a look in the Fellowship Hall and see if you can use any of the items there. Donations for items taken are welcome, please clearly mark your donation - "Dishes".

Any items left at the end of August will be donated to Westmoreland Community Action to help people moving into new housing.

Saturday Worship In the Park

Weather permitting

Worship in the Park is back!

This summer we will once again have worship in the park. The last one will be Saturday August 22nd at 6:00 pm. Picnic to follow. 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!

"Blessed are you, Lord God, the God of Israel; you alone do wondrous deeds."

Psalm 72:18

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.

Trex Recycling Challenge

Plastic Patrol

Everyone is now a part of the Plastic Patrol of First Lutheran Church. Keep bringing in your plastic bags, etc. so we can **keep it out of our landfills** and get a *chance(s) each quarter to win a Trex bench for our park.

Totals to date:
Oct-Dec. 2025 166 pounds
Jan-Mar. 2026 253 pounds
Apr – Jun 2026 252 pounds (as of June 18, 2026)
July – Sept 2026 47 pounds (as of July 8, 2026)
Grand total to date: 718 POUNDS

LET'S KEEP RECYCLING THAT PLASTIC!!!

**for each 250 pounds of plastic collected per quarter, one entry into a random drawing to win and choose a bench or one of 4 other prizes.*

ORGAN REDEDICATION CONCERT at Zion's Saturday, August 22nd at 2:00 PM. Please enjoy this concert and rededication of the 1929/1936 Moller Pipe Organ. Join organists David Bridge and Dr. Nemesio Valle as we hear music of Bach, Elgar, Franck, and others. Come experience the beauty of this pipe organ!

SUMMER FOOD DRIVE

During the summer months, the Christian Outreach Committee will be collecting nonperishable items for our Emergency Food Cupboard. These items will be used to assist many individuals and families in our community.

We have also seen an increased need for personal care items. Anything you are able to provide is greatly appreciated!

August is "Canned Food Month": Items especially needed are:

Soup
Fruit
Canned pasta (SpaghettiOs, etc.)

August Personal Care: Toothpaste, Toothbrush (single or 2-pack), dish liquid, laundry detergent (small size)

A basket is located in the education building foyer for your donations.

Please **check the expiration dates** before donating, as we cannot distribute expired items in the Emergency Food bags. Thank you!

Zion's Women of the ELCA invite you to join us for the third session in a three-part Bible Study from Gather Magazine entitled "I am Worthy." We will meet August 12 at Zion's located at the corner of Pennsylvania Avenue and Second Street in downtown Greensburg. Use the Second Street door (there is one step). Doors will open at 5:30 PM for light refreshments and fellowship to be followed by the Bible Study from 6 to 7 PM.

Each month we will collect "$Change$ for a Change" to support our Synod Women's Organizations (SWO) designated outreach, Reagan's Journey. Their mission is to meet the needs of disabled children who require specialized equipment. Bring your $change$ to be placed in a piggy bank. It will be taken to the Fall Retreat at Lutherlyn which will then be given to the folks at Reagan's Journey.

PUT IT ON YOUR CALENDAR!

Piano, Pipes, Peals, and Premieres on Sunday, October 18 at 4 PM. The program will be presented by Josh Beck (jazz piano and organ), Marc Tourre (baritone), Kathy Campbell (soprano sax), the FELC Handbell Choir….AND the world premiere of NO HEIGHT, NO DEPTH by composer Jonathan White for FELC choir and guest singers (baritone, solo, soprano saxophone) and accompanist Nancy Sheehan. Reception to follow. Spread the word!