

FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
 246 South Main Street
 Greensburg, Pennsylvania 15601-3183
 T: 724-834-1457
 F: 724-834-1469
 felchurch.org

PASTOR.....Chris Combs
 DIRECTOR OF MUSIC.....Marvin Huls
 CHURCH TREASURER..... Patti Sias
 OFFICE MANAGER.....Patricia Pluck
 OFFICE SECRETARY.....Gretchen Fischer
 CUSTODIAN..... Jaison Smith

CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Kip Boggs	
Rebecca Brunetta	Vice President
Tom Flory	
Linda Griffith	
Charlie Kaylor	
Dan Krack	Secretary
Bobbie Laciak	
Leon (Bud) Nusselt	
Cheryl Pfeifer	
Holly Rowe	President
Cullen Shuster	

WORSHIP WITH US

Sunday Church School 9:30 A.M.
 SCS does not meet in June, July or August

Sunday Worship 8:15 A.M. & 10:45 A.M.
 Summer Schedule 9:30 A.M.

Elevator and Hearing Assistance Available

FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
 246 SOUTH MAIN STREET
 GREENSBURG, PA 15601-3183
 RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION
 US POSTAGE PAID
 GREENSBURG, PA 15601
 PERMIT #436

FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
 GREENSBURG, PA

PHONE 724-834-1457
 FAX 724-834-1469

office@felchurch.org

April 2025



Pastor's Note



But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen.

Luke 24:1-5

Dear Friends in Christ,

As I write to you this month, it happens to be on the first day of Spring. While I would have preferred the rain to have held off until after our volunteers were finished with the Food Bank Distribution for this month, I know that we need the rain. These spring rains, of course, bring new life in the world around us.

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Pastor's Note

(Continued from Page 1)

What a great connection to the Easter Story! As Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the rest of the women went to the tomb this morning, they found the stone rolled away. In Luke we hear that they were perplexed, and they found the tomb empty. The angels appear and ask, "why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen."

Just like the rain that often seems to fall at the most inconvenient times and yet leads to new life, our journey with Christ to Easter seems frustrating at times. The cross was not meant to lead to life, it was the instrument of death, but God used that to conquer death. As Christ was raised, the tomb is found empty and we find the promise of new life in the Risen One!

As we move into this new season, may the new life of Spring be a reminder of the new life that Christ brings to us, as we celebrate that the tomb is empty! Christ lives so that we may live too!

Together in Christ,
Pastor Chris



HOLY WEEK AT FIRST LUTHERAN

- April 13 Palm Sunday 8:15 & 10:45 AM**
- April 17 Maundy Thursday 6:00 PM**
- April 18 Good Friday 6:00 PM**
- April 20 EASTER SUNDAY 8:15 & 10:45 AM
(No Sunday School)**



FIRLU HAS HEARD...

-that as of February 28th, our general offering receipts were 27,076. Last year they were \$26,143.

--that **Noisy Offering** will be collected the first Sunday of April to benefit Lutheran Summer Music program.

-that 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. Thanks!

-that Food Bank distribution is **Thursday, April 17**. Assistance is needed around 7:30 AM to help with the set-up and the need for assistance increases at 8:00 AM to unload the truck and prepare for distribution. If you can lend a hand on Thursday morning, your effort will be greatly appreciated.

-that the deadline for the **May newsletter is Monday, April 21**. Please be prompt. You may submit your articles to office@felchurch.org.

See you at worship,
FIRLU

Financial Update		
Through February 2025		
Giving		
2025	2024	Budget
\$ 33,392	\$ 33,183	\$ 41,000
Expense		
2025	2024	Budget
\$ 62,950	\$ 56,758	\$ 77,874

Serving At Worship In April 2025

4/6 4/13 4/20 4/27

ACOLYTES

Colton Boggs	Nathaniel Boggs Owen Lenhart	Noah Boggs	Molly Boggs
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LECTORS

Kim Woodley	Kevin Reilly	Bill Pfeifer	Liz Rowe
Bob Errett	Shirley Huls	Sunshine Keiser	Dan Krack

ASSISTING MINISTERS

10:45	Dianna Marusko	Rebecca Brunetta	10:45
Tawnya Combs			Tawnya Combs

ALTAR GUILD

Roberta Laciak
Mary Caldwell



EASTER EGG HUNT
HOLY SATURDAY
April 19, 2025 10:00 AM

All children ages 12 and under are invited to come and hunt for Easter eggs at First Lutheran Church. Friends are invited to join you as well. Please call the church office at 724-834-1457 to register for the hunt.

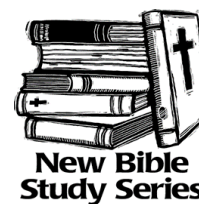
Please indicate if your child has any food restrictions or allergies.

ATTENTION PARENTS OF 3RD & 4TH GRADERS!

We are getting ready for First Communion. If you think your child is ready for their First Communion, classes will be held on Saturday April 5th and 12th at 9:00am. We will meet in the Sanctuary. If you have any questions, please get in touch with Pastor Chris.



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! The next Bible Study will be May 19.



RUTH CIRCLE will meet for the last time this year at 7:00 PM Thursday, April 10th in the church parlor. All women of the congregation are welcome.

Unleashing the Spirit of Easter

As the flowers bloom and the sun warms the earth, we enter the season of Easter – a time of renewal and rebirth. Renewal and rebirth are gifts. What we choose to do with our gifts is what we call stewardship. Stewardship, often associated with mindful care, is a cornerstone of the Easter message.

The Easter holiday is about more than just bunnies and eggs – it's a spiritual awakening, reminding us of the ultimate act of stewardship. When Jesus chose a sacrifice that gave the gift of forgiveness to all of us. Following the biblical teachings, we are called to be stewards of the land, our money, our families, and our neighbors. Easter's story of sacrifice and rebirth challenges us to consider the depth of our commitment to these roles.

Stewardship, in this sense, embodies the spirit of giving, not just from our abundance, but sometimes from our scarcity. Just as Christ gave of himself, those who celebrate Easter can find resonance in the message of sharing, selflessness, and service to others.

For Christians, faith without works is dead, and the call to stewardship is an active one. It's about being caretakers of God's creation, considering the Sustainability of our actions, and advocating for justice within our spheres of influence.

What does this look like in practical terms? Perhaps it's supporting local farmers' markets to reduce carbon footprints, or it's rallying for cleaner community spaces. Maybe it's mentoring a young person, volunteering with food banks, or investing in a community garden. These acts of stewardship demonstrate a dedication to the world that Easter's message envisions – a world of solidarity and care.

As flowers bring color to the world, our actions can also bring vibrancy. Where can you start your journey towards meaningful stewardship? Perhaps your local community has a program in need of volunteers. Or maybe you can set aside a portion of your budget to donate to local charities.

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APRIL NOISY OFFERING IS FOR LUTHERAN SUMMER MUSIC

LUTHERAN SUMMER MUSIC (LSM) is the nation's premier faith-based music academy for high school students, grades 8-12. In addition to advanced musical instruction and numerous performance opportunities, LSM students form an international community, living together for four weeks on the campus of Valparaiso University.

Since 1981, this program has guided the lives of young musicians, who credit LSM as the starting place for their future careers and vocations. Young musicians from across the country are invited to join this joyful community to expand their musical skills, build supportive relationships and lifelong friendships, and find welcome in using their musical gifts in worship. The music program includes private lessons, large ensembles, chamber music groups, musicianship classes, concerts, and recitals.

Worship is central to daily life at LSM. The three primary worship events are MORNING PRAYER, EVENING PRAYER, and SUNDAY EUCHARIST. This service is filled with music and follows a traditional Lutheran liturgy. Since its founding, LSM has reached musicians and music appreciators of all ages and faith traditions. LSM remains rooted in Lutheran music, worship and liturgical traditions.

The connections students make are immeasurable, getting to know oneself, becoming connected to others, and feeling closer to God. Your generosity helps make all of this happen. Thank you.

ORDER LILIES FOR EASTER

(Continued from Page 4)

Lilies will again decorate our church on Easter Sunday. You are invited to purchase a plant at a cost of \$15.00 and “lend” it to the parish. Plants that are purchased may be removed from the church following the 10:45 AM Easter Sunday Service. Any lilies that are not removed by the Wednesday following Easter will be given to our Food from the Heart guests.

Your purchase may be made “in memory of” or “in honor of” the person(s) of your choosing. Please indicate your preference and return this form with your payment. All orders are due by **Monday, April 14.**

In honor of _____

By _____

and/or

In memory of _____

By _____

Amount enclosed \$ _____

In the spirit of Easter, let's take a moment to reflect and act. Is there a neighbor you haven't checked on? A cause you haven't championed? This Easter season, let's bring stewardship to the forefront of our spiritual practice, as we rededicate ourselves to the good of all.

As you revel in the joy and lessons of Easter, consider how you can elevate the lives of others with love and impact. Find a way to give back to your community. Whether it's through your time or through a gift, your stewardship can act as a beacon of hope, just as Easter continues to be for millions around the world.

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

Property is responsible for the proper maintenance and protection of all property of the congregation. This includes three buildings; the main church building, the educational building, and the parking garage. We are also responsible for the park and the courtyard.

We are comprised of 14 members of various backgrounds & skills. They are dedicated to accomplishing the various tasks that are critical to the upkeep of the buildings' exterior & interior.

I started with property about 20 years ago. After joining the church, I was asked by Dean Cichetti if I would be interested in attending a property meeting. I attended the next meeting that was held. The meeting was fairly low key and everyone in attendance was very welcoming. We worked several work days throughout the summer. We accomplished a lot, but it didn't feel like work. The personalities were what made it.

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STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

(Continued from Page 5)

We have accomplished many projects since then, both large & small. These old buildings require quite a bit of maintenance. I was called to be a part of property to do my part as a member of this church. It is my way of helping to spread the word of God.

Galatians 6:10 – So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith.

Matthew 22:37-40 – He said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

Thank you,

Brian Erdman

SYNOD ASSEMBLY 2025 will be electing a new bishop this year since Bishop Kusserow will be retiring at the end of his term.

- ◇ **April 30:** Conference 4 Pre-Caucus Meeting at Salem Lutheran, Delmont (in person only).
- ◇ **May 17:** Synod Assembly opens (ZOOM only). There will be one plenary session, including the Ecclesiastical First Ballot for the election of a bishop.
- ◇ **June 12 through June 14:** Times to be determined. The remainder SYNOD of the Synod Assembly (in person only) at La Roche University.

Please let Pastor Chris know if you are interested in serving as a voting member, representing First Lutheran.



2025 LENTEN CONGREGATIONAL PROJECT

The Lenten Project this year, a clothes collection for The Community Closet at The Free Methodist Church, will be a great opportunity to help our neighbors and clean out our closets! All clean, gently worn clothing will be accepted starting Ash Wednesday, March 5, 2025. There will be boxes available in the Fellowship Hall.

All clothing will be accepted, however there is a particular need for boys clothing sizes 18 months to a men's small. Also accepted are gently used backpacks and duffel bags. Many of the clients of The Community Closet are displaced children to whom small stuffed animals, coloring books and small boxes of crayons are provided. If you have no clothing at this time, perhaps you would be interested in purchasing some of these items.

The Community Closet was conceived of 10 years ago when a need for free clothing for people in the Greensburg area was identified. Kathy Statler, a member of The Free Methodist Church, spearheaded the project and has watched the need grow steadily. The Closet is now associated with 14 agencies that assist families and children in crisis. Some of these are Allied Family Solutions, The Children's Institute, Embrace Grace, Glade Run Lutheran Services, The Westmoreland Children's Bureau and Westmoreland Case Management.

Volunteer opportunities will also occur when the collection is complete to separate the items by gender and size. If interested in helping, please contact Joanie Knobloch or Bobbie Laciak.

Thank you in advance for your kindness during this Lenten season and happy cleaning!



You Are Invited to CampBlast!

Saturday, May 10th 2025, 11am-4:30pm

Join us for a day of FUN that highlights all that Lutherlyn has to offer. Campfire, crafts, gaga ball, archery, zipline, bouldering room, hiking, nature activities, hay rides, games, sports, LEGO room, tours, great food, and MORE!

The best part.... **EVERYTHING IS FREE!**

www.lutherlyn.com/campblast

\$100 off for FIRST-TIME campers!

This coupon entitles FIRST-TIME Lutherlyn campers to \$100 off the registration fee for Summer 2025. This applies to Lutherlyn's overnight week-long programs. Young Folks half-week programs get \$50 off for FIRST-TIME campers. Does not apply to Family Camp, Confirmation Camp, Day Camps, or Small Fry Days.

Must be a FIRST-TIME summer camper.

No additional discounts may be combined with this offer.

Enter coupon code: **FIRST**

Register at **WWW.LUTHERLYN.COM**.

(Please share this code with friends!)



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!

We are also planning to have a picnic of sorts after the services on May 3rd and August 23rd. Details are being determined.

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


Psalm 34:8

First Lutheran offers Camperships to help defray the cost of camp. Register with Lutherlyn, then let the church office know to send the campership to Lutherlyn.

For the summer camp schedule, please visit www.lutherlyn.com or ask the office for a copy.

APRIL 2025

Please note that this schedule of events is subject to change.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 6:00 Executive 6:30 Fellowship	2 FOOD/HEART Noon 6 PM Lenten Worship 6:30 Handbells	3	4	5 9:00 First Communion Class
6 8:15 Worship 9:30 SCS 10:00 Choir 10:45 Worship NOISY OFFERING	7	8 6:00 Council	9 FOOD/HEART Noon 6 PM Lenten Worship 6:30 Christian Out.	10 6:15 Handbells 7:00 Ruth Circle	11	12 9:00 First Communion Class
13 8:15 Worship 9:30 SCS 10:00 Choir 10:45 Worship PALM SUNDAY JAVA TABLE	14	15 6:30 Finance	16 FOOD/HEART Noon	17 FOOD BANK 6:00 Maundy Thursday 7:00 Handbells	18  6:00 Good Friday Service	19 Easter Egg Hunt 10 AM
20 8:15 Worship NO Sunday School 10:00 Choir 10:45 Worship EASTER	21 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	22 6:30 Ch. Ed/Youth	23 FOOD/HEART Noon	24	25	26
27 8:15 Worship 9:30 SCS 10:45 Worship	28 1:30 & 6:00 Bible study	29 NEWSLETTER FOLDING	30 6:30 PM Property			

**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
April 3 through April 17
Suggested Lunch
Donation—\$5.00

Worship & Luncheon are not held
on days when Greensburg-Salem
School district declares a school
closing due to snow.



Sunday Church School will
NOT meet April 20.

Classes will enthusiastically
resume on April 27.