

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

PASTOR.....Chris Combs
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC.....Marvin Huls
CHURCH TREASURER.....Amy Boggs
OFFICE MANAGER.....Patricia Pluck
OFFICE SECRETARY.....Gretchen Fischer
CUSTODIAN.....Tim Rowe

CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Kip Boggs
Rebecca Brunetta President
Tom Flory
Linda Griffith
Teresa Graziotto
Charlie Kaylor
Dan Krack
Bobbie Laciak
Leon (Bud) Nusselt
William Pfeifer III
Holly Rowe Vice President
Megan Zobb Secretary

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

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

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GREENSBURG, PA

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

office@felchurch.org

April 2026



Pastor's Note



'I will extol you, O LORD, for you have drawn me up, and did not let my foes rejoice over me. ² O LORD my God, I cried to you for help, and you have healed me.³ O LORD, you brought up my soul from Sheol, restored me to life from among those gone down to the Pit.⁴ Sing praises to the LORD, O you his faithful ones, and give thanks to his holy name. ⁵ For his anger is but for a moment; his favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning.

Psalm 30:1-5 (NRSV)

Dear Friends in Christ,

As I write to you, I still have Psalm 130 from the 5th Sunday of Lent lingering in my mind. That beautiful Psalm of Hope in the midst of the depths reminded me of Psalm 130 from David. As with any of the Psalms, we see them a little differently than their writers did. We see them on this side of the Resurrection and that can change the way we hear and understand them.

(Continued on Page 2)

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Although David wasn't intending to write an Easter Psalm, it seems rather fitting to Easter. Journeying together through Holy Week as April begins, we walk with Jesus. We dine with Jesus at the Last Supper, walk with him through the "trial," and we weep with the Mary and the others on Good Friday. Our weeping doesn't last forever though, because JOY comes on Easter Morning.

Christ comes to us and heals us. Christ restores us to life. The path is one we wish Jesus didn't have to take, but JOY comes with the morning as we journey with Mary and the others to the Tomb and find it Empty. Death does not have the final say; Jesus has the final say and Jesus proclaims life.

I wish you all a Blessed Easter and pray that you rise each and every morning to the life and joy that Easter brings.

Together in Christ,
Pastor Chris



HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

March 29	Palm Sunday	8:15 & 10:45 AM
April 2	Maundy Thursday	6:00 PM
April 3	Good Friday	6:00 PM
April 5	EASTER SUNDAY	8:15 & 10:45 AM
		(No Sunday School)



FIRLU HAS HEARD...

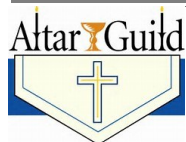
- that as of February 28th, our general offering receipts were \$25,952. Last year they were \$27,076.
- that **Noisy Offering** will be collected the first Sunday of April to benefit Camp Agape.
- that Angel Food cakes (home baked or purchased) are needed the first Sunday of every month for Meals on Wheels. Bring your cake to the church office. Thanks!
- that the **JAVA TABLE** will be open Sunday, April 12.
- that Food Bank distribution is **Thursday, April 16**. 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 **April newsletter is Monday, April 20**. Please be prompt. You may submit your articles to office@felchurch.org.

See you at worship,
FIRLU

Financial Update Through February 2026		
Giving		
2026	2025	Budget
\$ 30,675	\$ 33,393	\$ 42,668
Expense		
2026	2025	Budget
\$ 55,714	\$ 63,046	\$ 79,833

Serving At Worship In April 2026

	4/5	4/12	4/19	4/26
8:15 Acolyte	Colton Boggs	Nathaniel Boggs	Molly Boggs	Rachel Boggs
10:45 Acolyte	Owen Lenhart			
8:15 Lector	Liz Rowe	Bill Pfeifer	Kim Woodley	Mark Barnhart
10:45 Lector	Dan Krack	Joan Orr	Malcolm Sias	Megan Zobb
8:15 Worship Assistant	Kim Woodley			Kim Woodley
10:45 Worship Assistant	Rebecca Brunetta	Tawnya Combs	Dianna Marusko	Rebecca Brunetta



For April includes Roberta Laciak and Mary Caldwell.

*“God’s wrath is short;
God’s favor lasts a lifetime..”
Psalm 30:5*



2026 LENTEN CONGREGATIONAL PROJECT

Ash Wednesday was February 18 and now our thoughts turn to God and....our Lenten Project! A collection of clean, gently used clothing will occur from the 18th of February through Easter Sunday, to again be donated to the Community Clothes Closet at the Free Methodist Church in Greensburg. Clothing can be dropped off on or beneath the table on the bathroom side of the Fellowship Hall.

The Community Clothes Closet plays an important role in providing clothing to the county’s children who have been displaced from their homes, often suddenly. This is where the Closet’s greatest need lies. To assist with that need, a monetary collection will occur at the same time. If you find your closets are bare of unwanted clothing, consider a donation to help these children. Donations can be made via the yellow envelopes in the pews, with the designation Community Clothes Closet.



To stock FOOD FROM the HEART (FFTH) cupboards we are asking for donations in the upcoming months:

- April** chicken broth, beef broth or creamed soups
- May** canned fruits, canned vegetables or apple sauce

Thank you all for keeping this program going.

**APRIL NOISY OFFERING is FOR
CAMP AGAPE**



Camp Agape 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.

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.

Admission is on a first-come, first-served basis, and provided regardless of race, sex, color, religious affiliation (you don't have to be Lutheran to attend Agape), national origin, or handicap condition.

Contact: PO Box 115; 72 Agape Road; Hickory, PA 15340

SWPA LDR – UPCOMING MISSION TRIP

Youth – Save the Date – plans are being made for a trip to Johnstown, PA on July 5-8. This trip will end with a celebration with a group of youth coming from the Nebraska Synod to work in the Pittsburgh area. Registration is open and needs to be completed by May 1.

If you are interested in this trip, please reach out to Pr. Chris for additional information.

Open to youth who have completed grades 6-12. Rising Juniors and seniors in high school are able to apply to become Disciple Leaders who will be responsible for leading teams over the trip! Information to come soon.

Stay tuned for more information!



FEBRUARY CHRISTIAN OUTREACH UPDATE

21 bags of emergency food distributed

7 health/personal care kits distributed

201 FFTH lunches served

51 Households served through Food Bank

MARTIN LUTHER



"DEAR CHRISTIANS,
ONE AND ALL REJOICE"

LUTHERLYN TO LUTHERLAND

Luthertours is blessed to share that space remains available for your upcoming journey to [Germany, "In the Footsteps of Martin Luther," September 16-25, 2026](#). This promises to be a powerful and faith-enriching experience as we walk together along the historic Reformation Road.

Lutherlyn and LutherTours continue to joyfully promote this meaningful spiritual adventure. At present, nine guests are confirmed, and with several months remaining before the final payment deadline of June 30, 2026, we are prayerfully confident we will reach our anticipated minimum of 12-15 travelers. (If you've ever been to Lutherlyn, either as a camper or on retreat, you can take part in this tour).

Imagine standing where Martin Luther once stood, reflecting at the very sites that shaped the Reformation, and growing deeper in faith through shared worship, fellowship, and discovery. What a blessing to experience this sacred history alongside those you cherish most.

We are also pleased to offer our **"Refer a Friend Savings"** opportunity for this departure. When you refer a friend who registers and submits their deposit by June 15, 2026, you will both receive **\$100 OFF the TOUR PRICE**. **New travelers enter the Savings Code RAF100 on your tour registration form.** **You can use fellow traveler Rebecca Brunetta as your referral to receive this offer.**

Go to <https://christiantravelplanners.com/tours/reformation-tour-091626> for tour itinerary and pricing (airfare is separate).

LUTHERTOURS

✚ Christian Travel Planners | Since 1965

Never just a tour... always a spiritual adventure!

Web: LutherTours.com

Phone: 1.844.777.1517 ext. 2

Email: djones@luthertours.com

RECYCLING CHALLENGE

CHRISTIAN OUTREACH is participating in the **NexTrex Recycling Challenge**. Before October 1, 2026, we hope to collect 1000 pounds of plastic bags. This plastic will be recycled into decking boards and First can earn a park bench made of these boards. There are collection bins located in the Fellowship Hall, Education Building and the Narthex for you to deposit **your clean, dry and free of food residue plastic bags**. Since October, 2025, 356 pounds of plastic have been deposited and taken to Westmoreland Cleanways for recycling.

Examples of what can be recycled:



DO NOT INCLUDE:

Frozen food bags, candy wrappers, chip bags, net or mesh bags, mulch or soil bags, degradable/compostable bags/film, pre-washed salad mix bags, pet food bags, hot dog or meat wrap packaging, six-pack rings, PPE gloves, masks or protective wear, pool covers, lamination film, silage and hay bags, vinyl shower curtains or table cloths, bedding or linen packaging, shiny, crinkly film like floral wrap or backyard ice rinks.

Stewardship: All Things Great and Small

PLENTY TO SHARE

I think a lot of us, whether we grew up with hand-me-downs or the very best of everything, carry around an old message of *not enough* to some degree, in some variation.

But when we pay attention to the many blessings God has so graciously and generously poured out everywhere we look, when we feel grateful for all those blessings, when we realize that God really does love us – then those worries and fears go away and a new sentence comes to mind: “We have enough that we can share, and someone else will have plenty, too!”

Didn’t Jesus keep talking about love? Jesus kept telling and showing his disciples (us!) that there’s not only enough of that to go around, there’s so much that we can share it with all our neighbors and families and friends and even strangers, and then they’ll have plenty to share, too! Can it be true?

Yes. We can trust Jesus’ words and example. Perfect love – Christ’s love – casts out fear (1 John 4:18b), so we don’t have to worry. We don’t have to be afraid. There really is enough to go around, and more. Jesus wouldn’t have it any other way.

This message is excerpted from “Plenty to share” by Audrey Novak Riley from the February 1, 2017, [blog](#) of the Women of the ELCA and reprinted from Daily Grace., a daily devotional prepared by Women of the ELCA. Used with permission. Learn more about Daily Grace at welca.org/dailygrace.

Bits & Pieces from the Organ Bench

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5. “We need to laugh until we cry. We need to experience the fullness of God’s grace with great laughter and mirth. If Jesus experienced everything that was common to humanity, then surely he laughed with his family and friends. Surely he experienced the joy, the humor, and the absurdity in life. While Jesus was a man who was despised, rejected and acquainted with sorrow, he reassures us that blessed are those who weep, for they will one day laugh. This is a divine promise that even in hard times, joy and laughter can be found.” (Yolanda Pierce, Dean, Divinity School)



EASTER EGG HUNT HOLY SATURDAY

April 4, 2026 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.

Thursday, April 9 at 7 pm



Ruth Circle invites all women of the congregation to join us at our meeting Thursday, April 9th at 7:00 PM in the church parlor. We will be sharing an evening of fellowship and always delicious dessert. Please plan to share your evening with us.

BITS & PIECES from the ORGAN BENCH.....



1. Look who gathers at Christ's table! Hear the stories that they bring. Some are weeping; some are laughing; some have songs they want to sing. Others ask why they're invited, burdened by the wrong they've done. Christ insists they all are welcome. There is room for everyone. (Thomas Troeger, b. 1945)
2. "Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it." (Hebrews 13:2)
3. "Many times, a church member comments about a particular hymn after the service with a little anecdote about why that hymn has special meaning for them. Hymns are always chosen to align with the lectionary, but those moments when the music has triggered a faith-filled connection for people are moments of witness and reminders of how welcoming the music of the service can be." (Laura Petrie, organist, Gethsemane Lutheran, LCMS, Hackettstown, N.J.)
4. "Music is the soundtrack of my Lutheran faith. The music provides the sensory memories and emotions of worship experiences. There is always music in every meaningful worship experience. Whether my church was in Brooklyn, Texas, Massachusetts, or New Jersey; whether the hymnal was red, blue, green, or burgundy, I could find those hymns and sing them and respond with a hearty Amen in a confident voice. All my life, the preludes, liturgy, hymns, and anthems have welcomed me to worship and sent me out to the world to do my best for another week. I want everyone to be as uplifted, comforted, and inspired by the music of our faith as I have been." (Joseph Lawrence Herl, theologian)

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Registration for Summer Camp 2026 has begun. Please visit www.lutherlyn.com for dates, prices, details, and registration.

First time campers get \$100 off with coupon code "FIRST".

Visit lutherlyn.com/first for details.

For additional information, contact the camp office at 724-865-2161 or registrar@lutherlyn.com.


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.

Congregational Survey

Church Council has received questions about Worship and Worship times here at First. We are now trying to get a better understanding of what is important to our members regarding worship. Please provide your feedback and note that we are looking for individual responses (we ask each member in a family to provide feedback). If you need additional copies of the survey, you may make copies, pick up copies in the office, in the Sanctuary, or they can be downloaded from the website. Hardcopies can be returned to the office or placed in the offering plates on Sunday Morning. You may also e-mail them back to pastorchrif@felchurch.org Please return your surveys by April 26, 2026.

APRIL 2026

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

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

YOU ARE INVITED

**LENTEN THURSDAY
WORSHIP & LUNCHEON
AT ZION'S EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

140 S. Pennsylvania Avenue
Greensburg PA 15601

Thursday, April 2

Services begin at 12:05 PM

Lunch is served following the
service at 12:30 PM

Soup & Salad Bar

Suggested Lunch Donation—
\$5.00



Sunday Church School will
NOT meet April 5.

Classes will enthusiastically
resume on April 12.