

FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
246 South Main Street  
Greensburg, Pennsylvania 15601-3183  
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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**

Rebecca Brunetta                      President  
Brian Erdman  
Tom Flory  
Linda Griffith  
Charlie Kaylor  
Dan Krack  
Bobbie Laciak                      Vice President  
Leon (Bud) Nusselt  
Holly Rowe  
Cullen Shuster  
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 8:15 A.M. & 10:00 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

**August 2023**

Pastor's Note

*When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.  
Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy;  
then it was said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for  
them." The LORD has done great things for us, and we rejoiced.*

Psalm 126:1-3 (NRSV)

Dear Friends in Christ,

Every now and then I walk upstairs and take a look around the library (BTW --I encourage you to take a look through the library too, you never know what you might find.). Sometimes I am searching for something specific and other times just looking to see what might catch my eye. This morning I came across a rather small book, *The Wit of Martin Luther*, by Eric Gritsch and it caught my eye.

This seemed to me to be a rather intriguing title and I am looking forward to seeing what Gritsch has to say about the *Wit* (and humor) of Martin Luther. Certainly, Luther was known for witty sayings and this along with some recent jokes found on the backs of communion cards serve as reminders that humor and laughter --- these too are gifts from God.

As I turned to the back of this book, I found two quotes to share. First, "One should never argue with the devil, Luther counseled, but meet him with humor, ranging from a serene smile to scatological mocking. Humor is thus part of the essential spiritual food ration on the freedom march from the earthly to the heavenly city."

*Continued on page 2*

Pastor's Note continued

And second, "Humor is part of the power of the future promised to faithful disciples in Christ. Looking back, they can sing the ancient biblical song in the future tense: We will be like those who dream, and our mouth will be filled with laughter (Psalm 126:1-2)."

Above, I added verse 3 of the Psalm referenced by Gritsch. "The LORD has done great things for us, and we rejoiced." As we find our hope in Christ, we might say that the Lord has done, is doing, and will continue to do great things for us. And because of that we rejoice and are free to laugh.

Peace,  
Pastor Chris

P.S. In case you are wondering about those jokes on the backs of Communion Cards.....

What do you get from a pampered cow?..... Spoiled milk!  
What is a dentist's favorite hymn?.....Crown Him with Many Crowns.

Thanks for the laughs!!

**NOISY OFFERING** in August will be donated to St. Vladimir's Emmanuel Youth Group (the program assists Ukrainians fleeing war). The offering will only be loose change that has accumulated in pockets, purses or dumped into receptacles in your home. The children will be collecting the offering in metal pots so that it makes lots of noise.

**MEMORIAL GIFTS RECEIVED**



First Lutheran Church's Memorial Fund has received a gift in memory of Donald Johnson from Margaret Johnson.



**FIRLU HAS HEARD...**

-that as of June 25th, our offering receipts were \$90,524 last year they were \$85,727.

-that **Gemma Ann Knatz**, daughter of Patrick Knatz and Jessica Morgan, and **Ayven Perry Sasso**, son of Nicolas and Kelly Sasso, have been welcomed into the Communion of Saints through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. We rejoice in the waters of baptism and God's gift of new life in Christ.

-that **Noisy Offering** will be collected by the children on August 6 to benefit St. Vladimir's Emmanuel Youth Group (the program assists Ukrainians fleeing war).

-that assistance is greatly needed on Thursday, August 17 at 8:00 AM to unload the truck and sort groceries for Food Pantry

-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 deadline for the September newsletter is Monday, August 14. Please be prompt. You may submit your articles to office@felchurch.org.

See you at worship,  
FIRLU

# Serving At Worship In August 2023

8/6                      8/13                      8/20                      8/27

## ACOLYTES

Aaron Woodley	Molly Boggs	Aaron Woodley	Molly Boggs
Corrina Vuick	Nicholas Vuick	Benjamin Gustafson	Tessa Miler

## LECTORS

Sue Boggs	Sherry Menz	Jean Miller	Kim Nicassio
Megan Zobb	Rebecca Brunetta	Jeanne Christenson	Bob Errett

## ASSISTING MINISTERS

Dianna Marusko	Rebecca Brunetta	Pat Yost	Pat Yost
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### ALTAR GUILD

Dianna Marusko

### 8:15 USHERS

Sue Boggs  
Liz Rowe  
Bill Pfeifer  
Brian Erdman



**Are You Interested in Helping People Get a Home This Year?**

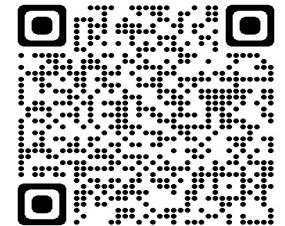
First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Greensburg is planning to help Central Westmoreland Habitat for Humanity (CWHFH) perform a build or rebuild for a family in our community.



**All are welcome to join in...and bring friends or invite others to the party!! As many people as are interested, can be used.**

**If you are interested, please contact Bob Errett at [bobandpam309@comcast.net](mailto:bobandpam309@comcast.net) or 412-558-8397, or the church office.**

**Help someone find a home!! Check the website for CWHFH Here...**



*"O give thanks unto God of heaven for his mercy endureth forever."*

*Psalms 136:26*

## Cookies For First Responders!

Sunday September 10<sup>th</sup> Rally Day

Hands are needed to:

- make cookies!
- deliver cookies to the Fellowship Hall Kitchen by Saturday Sept. 9<sup>th</sup>!
- pack cookies on Saturday Sept. 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am!
- deliver cookies to First Responders after Church on Sunday. Sept. 10<sup>th</sup>!

Our Thanks for your help!

The Christian Outreach Committee



### FROM THE ORGAN BENCH.....

- Marvin Huls served as Assisting Minister on June 25 at the Sunday morning worship service at the Lutheran House on the Chautauqua Institute grounds. Pastor John Smaligo, former pastor of Harold Zion Lutheran and former music student of Marvin and Shirley Huls at Seton Hill, was Presiding Minister.
- Marvin Huls presented an Interest Session at the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA-PA) Summer Conference at Messiah University July 30-August 2. The session, "Honey, COVID Shrank The Choir," based on "Honey, I Shrank the Kids," explored anthems for reduced number of choir members.

## SUMMER FOOD DRIVE

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



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

Soup, Fruit, Canned pasta (SpaghettiOs, etc.)

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

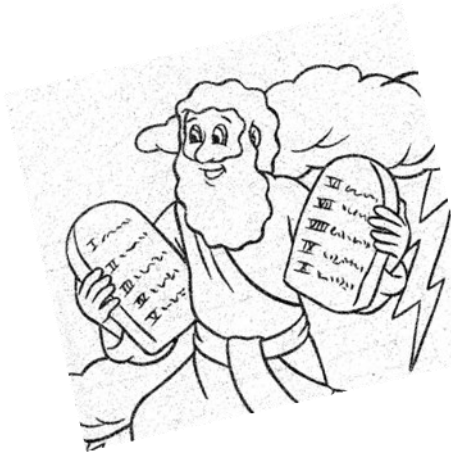
Please **check the expiration dates** before donating, as we cannot distribute expired items in the Emergency Food bags.

Thank you!

## MATCHING GIFT PROGRAM 2023

First Lutheran has sponsored a Matching Gifts program since 2002. Members of First Lutheran are invited to make a gift to any non-profit, human service organization whose mission is in accordance with First Lutheran's mission, as agreed upon by our Community Outreach Committee. Write your check out to First Evangelical Lutheran Church and mark "Matching Funds" on the memo line on the bottom left corner of the check. Next to "Matching Funds" write the name of the organization(s) to whom you wish to donate matching funds (Example: Matching Funds...Westmoreland Food Bank). Such gifts will be matched by a First Lutheran Check and will be sent to the organization. Also, such gifts can be made throughout the year until the total budgeted amount of \$10,000.00 is met. More details regarding the Matching Gift Program are available from the office.

# THE TEN COMMANDMENTS



What comes to mind when you think of the Ten Commandments? Law, rules, code, regulation? What about a gift?

Are you interested in exploring the commandments, given our Lutheran perspectives on Law & Gospel, Saint & Sinner, Already & Not Yet?

Plan to join the discussion beginning in September. Keep an eye out for details about dates and times in the bulletins and the September Newsletter.

**SYNOD ASSEMBLY UPDATE:** As mentioned after the assembly, more information is available regarding this year's SWPA Synod Assembly. The actions of the assembly along with reports and other background information can be found on the synod website at [www.swpasynod.org/assembly2023](http://www.swpasynod.org/assembly2023) in addition, you might be interested in the sermons from our Saturday morning worship. Those can be found at [www.swpasynod.org/stories/sermons2023](http://www.swpasynod.org/stories/sermons2023) As you look through this information, please let us know if you have any questions.

**NOTES FROM THE LOFT** ( by the late John Salveson, Music Director, First Presbyterian Church, Greensburg)

It was a lovely evening, a gathering of seemingly like-minded people over a lovely dinner. Our hosts were gracious, welcoming, and the conversation was spirited. Then it happened. The talk turned to religion. At first, I felt a bit puffed up. I work for the church, and even studied theology along with my music courses. I'm ready for this.

Then I heard the words that broke my heart and filled me with fear. "I don't go to church because...." I always want to cut the conversation short there. To stand up and scream "but my church isn't like that" or "but you just don't understand."

I felt defensive, sad, and lost for words all at the same time. Our evening proceeded and I think I was able to say a wise word or two, but left feeling I'd somehow failed. The party was not convinced that the church would become a regular part of life. I went home praying for that person and asked for forgiveness if I'd failed in my witness.

As I was thinking about my failure to defend Christendom, words began to ring in my head from St. Francis, an 11th century reformer of a church that had lost its zeal. He admonished, "preach at all times, use words if necessary." How often is my real sin in thinking that I somehow need to defend God? Perhaps that night, it was more important that I hear the story of one who had been harmed in the name of the church. Perhaps that night, it was a listening presence and a compassionate ear that was more important than the right words.

I can't pretend that I know what to do when situations like this arise. What I can do is that I can pray by listening without judgement and with compassion. Maybe, just maybe, the spirit will use that spark of kindness to plant a seed that may grow in faith in ways I'll never know. Perhaps that person at the dinner table taught me something too. I am reminded that God's grace abounds, that I am given my lifetime to understand what this Christian life means. Hopefully, even at that dinner table, in some small way, God's grace allowed me to become just a tiny bit more like Christ. Peace be with you.



# AUGUST 2023

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 6:00 Council	2 FOOD/HEART Noon 6:30 Fellowship	3	4	5
6 8:15 W&S 10:00 W&S Noisy Offering	7	8	9 FOOD/HEART Noon	10	11	12
13 8:15 W&S 10:00 W&S	14 September NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	15 6:30 Finance	16 FOOD/HEART Noon 6:30 Christian Ed	17 FOOD PANTRY	18	19
20 8:15 W&S 10:00 W&S	21	22 NEWSLETTER FOLDING	23 FOOD/HEART Noon	24	25	26
27 8:15 W&S 10:00 W&S	28	29 6:00 Executive 7:00 Choral Soc.	30 FOOD/HEART Noon 6:30 PM Property	31		



The "Summer Worship Schedule" will have worship at 8:15 and 10:00 AM.

There will be no Sunday Church School during the summer months. SCS will resume September 10 with Rally Recreation Day.

Regular worship schedule will resume **September 10**.