

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

Debra Black
 Rebecca Brunetta Vice President
 Brian Erdman
 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

August 2024

Pastor's Note

“Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” Jesus 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.”

(Matthew 22:36-40, NRSV)

Dear Friends in Christ,

As you read this we will have finished our adult Bible study of the 10 Commandments. Almost a year ago, we embarked on a monthly journey of studying the commands that God gave the Israelites on Mt. Sinai. It has been a good journey of study and fellowship --- and wrestling together with the implications these commands have for our lives in the world today.

When we first gathered, I asked the group to write down the commandments. Overall, everyone did pretty well, but of course there were some challenges remembering them all and getting them in the correct order. In the midst of that “fun” exercise, we found encouragement as we also remembered that Jesus had summed up the law for us. Love. Love God with all your heart, soul, and mind. And love your neighbor as yourself.

Throughout this journey we were reminded that we often fall short and therefore need Christ, who comes to us with grace and mercy, clothing us in His Righteousness. Living in the grace of God, we do our best to love God and neighbor.

(Continued on Page 2)

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Although I don't know where our adult Bible study will take us in the fall, I do encourage you all to join the conversation. Keep an eye out for more information for our next study. In the meantime, trusting in God's grace, strive to love God and neighbor.

Together in Christ,
Pastor Chris

MATCHING GIFT PROGRAM 2024

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.



FIRLU HAS HEARD...

-that as of June 24th, our offering receipts were \$93,762. Last year they were \$92,820.

-that **Noisy Offering** will be collected the first Sunday of August to benefit the Bethlehem Project.

-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 there will be no Sunday Church School during the summer months. Sunday Church School will resume September 8 with Rally Recreation Day. Regular worship schedule will resume **September 8**. Continental Breakfast will resume September 15.

-that the JAVA TABLE will not be open in August.

-that Food Bank distribution is **Thursday August 15**. 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, August 15, your effort will be greatly appreciated.

-that the deadline for the **September newsletter is Monday, August 19**. Please be prompt. You may submit your articles to office@felchurch.org.

See you at worship,
FIRLU

Serving At Worship In August 2024

8/4

8/11

8/18

8/25

ACOLYTES

Corrina Vuick

Molly Boggs

Corrina Vuick

Molly Boggs

LECTORS

Joan Orr

Jean Miller

Malcolm Sias

Tawnya Combs

ASSISTING MINISTERS

Tawnya Combs

Dianna Marusko

Rebecca Brunetta

Tawnya Combs

ALTAR GUILD

Dianna Marusko



*“Cast all your anxieties upon God,
because he cares for you.”*

1Peter 4:7

THE MAGIC OF 10-10-80 BUDGETING

When my twentysomething daughter recently got her first *real* job- one that paid good money and benefits - she asked me how to handle her finances.

It’s a good question, a responsible question, and depending on your appetite for detail and complexity, one that could have dozens of answers. And certainly, there are lots of financial advisors and services that can provide help (often for a fee!)

But my advice was simple: Follow the 10-10-80 formula. It has been my financial pole star for years, and it has enabled me to live free of financial stress. Here’s how it works:

When you craft a budget (and you DO craft a budget, right?) spend it in this way:

- Save 10 percent.
- Give away 10 percent.
- Live on 80 percent.

Following the formula takes discipline, but don’t all worthwhile endeavors - reading the Bible, daily prayer, losing weight or learning a language?

And like any good effort, getting into the formula is best accomplished gradually. Think long term. First, analyze your finances to find out the percentage that you save, give away, and live on. Then set goals and adjust your finances accordingly.

For instance, if your current spending is 1 percent giving, 2 percent savings, 97 percent living, set a goal to increase savings and giving over time until you reach 10-10-80. One or two percentage points a year will get you there in just a few years.

When you’re living the formula, you’re in the sweet spot of financial freedom. You have enough to pay your bills, save for the future, and be generous.

-Rob Blezard

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BIBLES FOR LOVE PACKAGES

BIBLES WILL BE COLLECTED THROUGH RALLY DAY



Do you have old Bibles that you no longer use or have inherited and don't know what to do with them? Well, we have an answer.

Beginning in January and running for several months, First Lutheran will collect used and/or new Bibles as well as Sunday School materials and other Christian materials to send to "Love Packages."

Putting the Word of God into Hungry Hands All Over the World

Love Packages collects bible donations—as well as donations of Christian books, Sunday School materials, and more—from people and publishers across the U.S. and ship it to our network of distributors all over the world. Love Packages is fueling international missions work and sending the gospel to the ends of the earth by putting donated bibles and other Christian literature into the hands of people around the world. Some of the locations shipped to include Kenya, India, Uganda, South America and others in need. They ship over 1,500 tons of recycled gospel literature to the mission field every year.

Items we are collecting are:

Bibles – new or used, any translation, New Testaments or other portions, individual gospel booklets.

Reference Material – Dictionaries, Bible dictionaries, concordances, commentaries, etc.

Books – all Christian books – adult or children, non-fiction.

Magazines and Daily Devotionals – any devotionals or magazine from a Christian publisher.

Sunday School Materials – adult quarterlies and all teacher manuals in any amount from all publishers; children's quarterlies with the teacher's manual and full student manuals.

CDs, DVDs, Blu-ray – Christian music & movies.

Puppets, Nativity Sets, etc. – bible games, biblical puzzles – anything that helps teach the gospel, especially to children.



MEMORIAL GIFTS RECEIVED

First Lutheran Church's Memorial Fund has received gifts for Food from the Heart in memory of Teresa Grove from Cullen Shuster, Josie Sleasman, Judi Seanor, and Teresa Graziotto.

Rally Day Cookies for First Responders!

Sunday, September 8th Rally Day

Hands are needed to:

- Make cookies!
- Deliver cookies to the Fellowship Hall by 10 am Saturday September 7th!
- Pack cookies on Saturday September 7th.
- Deliver cookies to First Responders after Church on Sunday, September 8th.



Our Thanks for your help!

The Christian Outreach Committee



RUTH CIRCLE will meet Thursday, August 22nd at 7:00 PM in the church parlor. We will be planning our schedule for the upcoming year. All women of the congregation are welcome.

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.

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!

MESSAGE FOR THRIVENT FINANCIAL MEMBERS

Thrivent members are given Thrivent Cash Dollars to direct to charitable organizations.

When you are considering where to spend your Cash Dollars, please consider giving your gift to the General Fund of First Lutheran Church. Thrivent Financial considers our congregation and any committee a valid recipient for Cash Dollars. Call (800-847-4836) say Thrivent Choice or email fraternal@thrivent.com.

BIBLES FOR LOVE PACKAGES continued

Boxes for your items will be located in the Narthex, the Education Building and the Fellowship Hall.

For more information on Love Packages check them out on lovepackages.org.

We will continue collecting until Rally Day, September 8th.

NOISY OFFERING FOR AUGUST



The **BETHLEHEM PROJECT** is a social ministry of Blessed Sacrament Cathedral Parish in Greensburg that seeks to prevent homelessness in the central Westmoreland County area. Homelessness prevention is achieved by providing comprehensive resource information and referral services, education on tenant and landlord rights and responsibilities, pastoral counseling, and limited financial support.

The Goals of the Bethlehem Project are to respond to the needs of the homeless and near homeless by

- Providing funds for emergency shelter or first month’s rent in collaboration with the County Housing Authority, the State Department of Welfare and other social service agencies.
- Assisting local shelters by providing needed items several times during the year.
- Making necessary referrals to other social service agencies.
- Educating the community on laws relating to housing, including the rights and responsibilities of landlords and tenants
- Maintaining ongoing follow up when necessary with those served to encourage them in maintaining their goal of permanent housing.
- Advocating for changes in current housing policies that put the poor at greater risk for homelessness.

August 2024 *Please note that this schedule of events is subject to change.*

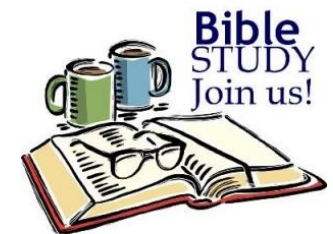


Word and Sacrament at 9:30 AM.

There will be no Sunday Church School during the summer months and will resume September 8 with Rally Recreation Day.

Regular worship schedule will resume **September 8.**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 9:30 Worship NOISY OFFERING	5	6 6:00 Executive	7 FOOD/HEART Noon 6:30 Fellowship	8	9	10
11 9:30 Worship	12	13 6:00 Council	14 FOOD/HEART Noon 6:00 Ch. Outreach	15 FOOD BANK	16	17
18 9:30 Worship	19 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	20 6:30 Finance	21 FOOD/HEART Noon	22 7:00 Ruth Circle	23	24
25 9:30 Worship	26	27 NEWSLETTER FOLDING 6:30 Ch. Ed./Youth	28 FOOD/HEART Noon 6:30 Property	29	30	31



The Ten Commandments Bible Study has ended. Watch for updates on future Bible Studies.