

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	
Linda Griffith	
Jeanne Kiss	
Dan Krack	
Bobbie Laciak	Secretary
Dianna Marusko	
Leon (Bud) Nusselt	
Cullen Shuster	
Megan Zobb	Vice President

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

NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE PAID
GREENSBURG, PA 15601
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GREENSBURG, PA

PHONE 724-834-1457
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office@felchurch.org

December 2022

Pastor's Note

Dear Friends in Christ,

What Child is This; this famous hymn (ELW #296) written by William Chatterton Dix is one of my favorite Christmas hymns. I am not exactly sure why this is the case. It might be because I listened to the tune (Greensleeves) over and over again in the lounge of the church that I grew up in. *A Winter's Solstice* remained on the record player for many years and at many times, when I was waiting for something I would turn this on. Even though it was instrumental, I always heard the words of *What Child is This* in my mind.

As we enter the month of December we have already begun the season of Advent. It is a season of expectant waiting. We expect that Christmas will come and of course it will, but we still have to wait. In this time of waiting, perhaps take some time to consider what, or rather who, it is that we wait on. It is a child, the only Son of God, "the babe, the son of Mary!"

While this entire hymn is worth contemplation, I think the second verse is particularly worthwhile. "Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding? Good Christian fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading. Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you; hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary!"

I wish you all a blessed Advent as you wait expectantly for Christmas and the birth of our Savior. May you and your families have a Blessed and Merry Christmas!

May the peace of Christ be with you always,

Pastor Chris

P.S. - If you are looking for something else to consider, try googling "The Manger Throne." It is the poem written by William Chatterton Dix from which he based the hymn, *What Child is This*.

LOOSE CHANGE FOR MISSION (NOISY OFFERING)

Christian Outreach will be sponsoring a "Noisy Offering" on the first Sunday of each month. 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. The December offering will again go to **Westmoreland Community Action** to help flood victims.



CHRISTMAS EVE SCHEDULE

CHRISTMAS EVE, December 24

7:00 PM Candlelight Family Service with communion.

10:00 PM Candlelight Communion Service.

MEMORIAL GIFTS RECEIVED



First Lutheran Church's Memorial Fund has received gifts in memory of Albert Danilko from Barry and Beverly Attenberger, Dennis and Elizabeth Blank, Charlajean and Terrence Keffer, Malcolm and Patti Sias and David and Susan Cobb. A gift in memory of Mary Furlong Leppold has been received from David and Susan Cobb.



FIRLU HAS HEARD...

-that as of October 25th, our offering receipts were 147,084; last year they were 138,073.

-that sympathy is extended to the families of Mary Furlong Leppold and Albert Danilko, Jr.

- that the following youth received First Communion. Rachel Boggs, Sara Corazzi, Levi Boggs, Colton Boggs, and Owen Lenhart. Blessings to them and their families.

-that the JAVA TABLE will be open December 11.

-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 assistance is greatly needed the third Thursday of the month by 8:00 AM to unload the truck and sort groceries for Food Pantry

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

-that Council Minutes are available through the Church Office. Call or email the office if you would like a copy of Council Minutes.

-that we are looking for Worship Assistants. Have you thought this might be a way you can serve the church? Do you have questions? Are you concerned about schedules? Please contact Pastor Chris if you think you might want to serve and we can discuss any questions or concerns you might have.

See you at worship,
FIRLU

Serving At Worship In December 2022

12/4 12/11 12/18 12/25

ACOLYTES

Molly Boggs	Aaron Woodley	Noah Boggs	Molly Boggs
Tyler Miller	Addy Saraceni	Bradley Schmidt	

LECTORS

Sherry Menz	Jean Miller	Kim Nicassio	Joan Orr
Rebecca Brunetta	Dan Krack	Dianna Marusko	

ASSISTING MINISTERS

Carolyn Hanzel	Mia Saraceni	Dianna Marusko	Rebecca Brunetta
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ALTAR GUILD

Dianna Marusko
Gwen Irwin



CONGREGATION MEETING AND DINNER

FEBRUARY 5, 2023.

Meat, rolls, and dessert will be provided.

Church members are asked to bring a vegetable or salad dish, and a place setting.



ANGEL TREE 2022



It is that time of the year to donate for the Angel Tree!

We will be accepting gift cards again for the children of our Food Bank families and Westmoreland Community Action Head Start Program.

Donations of \$25 dollar gift cards for Target or Walmart will be accepted until **Friday, December 9, 2022.**

Our Sunday School students will be making the Angels this year.

Please choose an angel from the Christmas Tree and attach the gift card to the angel and place it in the offering plate or bring to the church office. If you would like to keep the angel, place the gift card in an envelope, write "ANGEL TREE" on the outside of the envelope and place it in the offering plates or drop off in the church office. Thank you!

Zion's Advent Thursdays Noon Worship & Luncheon

Thursday, December 1

Thursday, December 8

Thursday, December 15



Services begin at 12:05 PM with lunch served at 12:30 PM.

Suggested lunch donation—\$5.00

No service or lunch in January 2023.



POINSETTIAS

Poinsettias will again decorate our church on Christmas Eve. You are invited to purchase a plant at a cost of **\$10.00** and “lend” it to the parish. Plants that are purchased may be removed from the church following the 10:00 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service.

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. We must have your order by **Monday, December 19.**

POINSETTIA ORDER FORM:

In honor of _____

By _____

And/or

In Memory of _____

By _____

Amount enclosed \$ _____

OPERATION REINDEER GIFT SUGGESTIONS continued:

Toiletries

Shampoo/conditioner, soap, body wash

Brushes, pony tail holders

Hand/body lotion, shaving gel/creams

Lipstick, gloss, powder, eye shadow, mascara, lip balm, blush

Miscellaneous

Craft kits, puzzle books,

CDs/DVDs Games, activity books, handheld games,

CDs/DVDs, Batteries (especially AA)

Wallets, watches Portable CD players, radios

Sports memorabilia (especially Pittsburgh teams)

Writing paper, stationary items especially with stamps

Diabetic or sugarless items

Monetary / Gift Card Donations

Monetary donations (made out to MHA-SWPA and note Operation Reindeer on them) or gift cards can be donated in the yellow offering envelopes.

Gift cards for Walmart are greatly appreciated. The staff and volunteers at Torrance State Hospital can shop for the patients.



First Lutheran will again participate in Operation Reindeer. Your gifts should be new, unboxed and unwrapped. Please bring them to the church office by Sunday, December 4. Thank you!

OPERATION REINDEER GIFT SUGGESTIONS

Operation Reindeer is Mental Health of America’s annual drive to provide Christmas gifts for Westmoreland County residents at Torrance State Hospital, a long term facility for psychiatric patients. These items make being away from family at Christmastime easier for patients who struggle with mental illnesses.

Please, no items with glass, belts, razors or other safety hazards!

NOTE: There is a great need of socks, underwear and sports bras, especially large sizes.

Clothing

New Men’s size XL or larger Women’s size L or larger (XXL and larger and 1X and larger sizes are greatly needed)

Sweat shirts & pants, tops, tee shirts, pants or jeans

Bathrobes (no belts), jackets, coats, outerwear,

Socks, mittens, gloves, hats, ear muffs

Sweaters, undergarments, pajamas

HELP US DECORATE OUR

“NATIVE AMERICAN CHRISTMAS TREE”

Native American children need our help this Christmas. The Northern Cheyenne and Crow Reservation in Montana is in desperate need of warm clothing for their children. Every winter, Native Americans face weather conditions that could lead to hypothermia. Fifty nine percent of homes are substandard: lacking water, electricity, insulation, or a sewage system.



This year our “Christmas Tree” will be transformed into a “Native American Christmas Tree” Please help us decorate the “Native American Christmas Tree” by purchasing new children’s & youth's hats, scarves and mittens. Susan from Saint Labre Indian School stated they have 400 students from infants to high school students who are in need. You may place your purchases on the tree, under the tree or bring them to the church office.

On December 18, we will gather all of our blessed hats, scarves, gloves and mittens and mail them to Susan (who is in charge of Donor Relations) in Ashland, Montana. She will distribute our winter wear to the children of the Northern Cheyenne and Crow Reservation.

"But as it is written; Eye has not seen nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him."


1 Corinthians 2:9

December 2022

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

2023 OFFERING ENVELOPES AVAILABLE



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 6:15 Bells 7:00 Choir	2	3
4 8:15 Worship 9:30 SCS 10:45 Worship NOISY OFFERING Advent 2	5	6 6:30 Council	7 FOOD/HEART Noon	8 6:15 Bells 7:00 Choir	9	10
11 8:15 Worship 9:30 SCS 10:45 Worship JAVA TABLE Advent 3	12	13 6:30 Ch. Ed./Youth	14 FOOD/HEART Noon	15 FOOD PANTRY 6:15 Bells 7:00 Choir	16	17
18 8:15 Worship 9:30 SCS 10:45 Worship Advent 4 Church Council installation	19 JANUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	20 6:30 Finance	21 FOOD/HEART Noon	22 6:15 Bells 7:00 Choir	23 Office Closed	24 7:00 PM 10:00 PM Christmas Eve Services
25 10:00 Worship 	26	27 NEWSLETTER FOLDING 6:30 Executive	28 FOOD/HEART Noon 6:30 Property	29	30	31 

2023 offering envelopes will be available soon. **The boxes will be in the Fellowship Hall.** You are asked to pick up your envelopes before or after worship, or anytime during the week. Please deliver a box to a shut-in, family member, or neighbor who may not be able to take their box.

Please **DO NOT** use 2023 envelopes before January first as your envelope number may have changed. Offerings received in the church office or postmarked on or before December 31st will be credited as gifts for 2022.