

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.....Amy Boggs
 OFFICE MANAGER.....Patricia Pluck
 OFFICE SECRETARY.....Gretchen Fischer
 CUSTODIAN.....Tim Rowe

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

December 2025

Pastor's Note

While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

(Luke 2:6-7 NRSV)

Dear Friends in Christ,

It was a night that changed everything and I mean everything. It even changed the way that we consider time.

Dr. Walter Wilson observes:

We celebrate Christ's birth by referring to it in the date placed on all our coins, civil records and vital documents. It is inscribed upon metal and written on parchment and engraved on the cornerstones of great buildings. It is on every newspaper, every check, every deed, and it is universally acknowledged at the beginning of a new life.

Every human transaction is related to the birth of Christ. It cannot be avoided or evaded. God has seen to it that this event is more widely advertised than anything on earth that is or that has ever been.¹

There was Before Christ and then there is now, the year of our Lord Jesus Christ, 2025. Certainly, that night in Bethlehem changed everything. That night has changed the way we consider time, but for us, members of the body of Christ, it has changed things in a more personal way too.

(Continued on Page 2)

Pastor's Note

This Advent we wait expectantly for the birth of our Savior. Our Savior has already been born and died centuries ago, but we look to that day, waiting to celebrate. We celebrate God's love for us, shown in the birth of a child. We celebrate God coming to us in the flesh.

Blessings to you this Advent season. May it be a time of joyful anticipation, as we look forward to gathering together to celebrate the birth of our Savior on a night that changed everything.

Together in Christ,
Pastor Chris

¹Wilson, Walter. *An Inescapable Date*. <https://www.churchart.com/subscriber/content/issue/9672045> accessed, 11-18-25.

**Installation of Council Members will be held
December 21 during the service.
Only one service at 9:30 AM.**



**A CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS
PROGRAM will be held
December 21**



FIRLU HAS HEARD...

-that as of October 30th, our general offering receipts were \$169,490. Last year they were \$155,931.

--that **Noisy Offering** will be collected the first Sunday of December to benefit Welcome Home Shelter.

-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, December 14.

-that Food Bank distribution is **Thursday, December 18**. 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 Adult Bible Study will be December 8. We are studying women of the Bible this year.

-that thanks go out to Ruth Circle for providing personal items to be distributed as needed with emergency food.

-that there has been a wonderful beginning to our NexTrex plastic collection. A drop-off of 57.7 pounds of plastic was made to Westmoreland Cleanways last month—a great start! We still have until next October to reach our goal of 1000 pounds so keep bringing in that plastic!!!!

that there is **NO Food from the Heart December 24 or December 31**.

-that the deadline for the **January newsletter is Monday, December 15**. Please be prompt. You may submit your articles to office@felchurch.org.

See you at worship,
FIRLU

Serving At Worship In December 2025

	12/7	12/14	12/21	12/28
8:15 Acolyte	Colton Boggs	Nathaniel Boggs	Noah Boggs	Molly Boggs
10:45 Acolyte	Owen Lenhart		ONE SERVICE AT 9:30	ONE SERVICE AT 9:30
8:15 Lector	Bill Pfeifer	Mark Barnhart		
10:45 Lector	Tawnya Combs	Jean Miller	Kim Woodley	Sue Boggs
8:15 Worship	Kim Woodley		ONE SERVICE AT 9:30	ONE SERVICE AT 9:30
10:45 Worship	Rebecca Brunetta	Dianna Marusko	Tawnya Combs	Rebecca Brunetta



For December includes Dianna Marusko and Tawnya Combs.

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

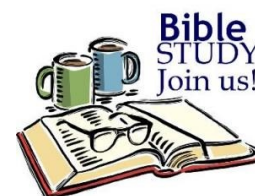
December 24



4:00 PM Candlelight Communion Service

8:00 PM Traditional Candlelight Communion Service

December 21 and 28 only one service at 9:30 AM.



BIBLE STUDY: The Women of the Bible

You have two opportunities each month to join. We will gather at 1:30 PM and 6:00 PM on December 8. Hope to see you there!

"For he will command his angels concerning you, to guard you in all your ways."

Psalm 91:11



ANGEL TREE 2025

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

We will be accepting gift cards for the children of our Food Bank families. Angels will be available the first Sunday of Advent, November 30.

Donations of \$25 dollar gift cards for Target or Walmart will be accepted until **Sunday, December 14, 2025**.

Our Sunday School students will be making the Angels again 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!



Ruth Circle will meet Thursday, December 11 at 7:00 PM in the church parlor. We invite all women of the congregation. Please join us for an evening of fellowship and always delicious dessert.



OCTOBER PERFECT ATTENDANCE

<i>Pre School</i>	<i>Kacie Colonna</i>
<i>Kindergarten</i>	<i>Camden Kenderdine</i>
<i>First Grade</i>	<i>Kinsley Colonna</i>

RECYCLING CHALLENGE

CHRISTIAN OUTREACH will be participating in the **NexTrex Recycling Challenge**. Over the next twelve months (and perhaps beyond), we hope to collect 1000 pounds of plastic bags. This plastic will be recycled into decking boards and park benches. There are collection bins located in the Fellowship Hall and Education Building for you to deposit your clean, dry, and free of food residue plastic bags.

Since October, **57.7 pounds of plastic** have been deposited and taken to Westmoreland Cleanways for recycling.

Please let the office know if you would like to volunteer to pack and/or deliver the bags.

Examples of what can be recycled:



DECEMBER NOISY OFFERING IS FOR WELCOME HOME

Welcome Home is a temporary emergency shelter located in the heart of Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania. We offer a clean, safe place to stay for families and single women experiencing homelessness. Welcome Home offers 30-60 days of emergency shelter and provides temporary respite for homeless families and single women. Located in downtown Greensburg, Welcome Home can accommodate four families and ten single women at any time. In addition to providing basic needs, Welcome Home also offers life skills classes from other community providers on various topics like cooking skills, budgeting and home management.

The shelter is staffed 24 hours a day, and offers case management services to our guests Monday through Friday. In addition, we also offer on-site behavioral health counseling services for all interested individuals. While we offer house food for individuals without the ability to acquire their own, individuals that are able through SNAP and Foodbank assistance are encouraged to secure their own food and prepare their own meals on-site.

Each year Welcome Home assists an average of 250 women, children and men who find themselves homeless in Westmoreland County. Annually we provide approximately 7,000 shelter nights annually.

You are invited to attend **FIRST THURSDAY WORSHIP & LUNCH** at Zion’s Lutheran Church Thursday, December 4, 2025. Services begin at 12:05 PM and lunch is served following the service at 12:30 PM. Suggested lunch donation - \$5.00.



POINSETTIAS

Poinsettias will again decorate our church on Christmas Eve. You are invited to purchase a plant at a cost of **\$11.00** and “lend” it to the parish. Plants that are purchased may be removed from the church following the 8:00 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 15.**

POINSETTIA ORDER FORM:

In honor of _____

By _____

And/or

In Memory of _____

By _____

Amount enclosed \$ _____



First Lutheran will again participate in Operation Reindeer. Your gifts should be new, unboxed and unwrapped. Please bring them to the church office by Monday, December 8. 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!

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

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.

This is just a glimpse of some of the things that happen behind the scenes here at First. Thank you to everyone who volunteers, giving of their time and talent in more and less visible ways as we work together to proclaim the Good News of Christ.

As we go forward, I would like to invite you to share why you give of your time, talent, and/or treasure here at First. To share how giving of yourself has impacted you. I invite you to share because we are all connected and your stories matter. It just might be that your story will inspire your neighbor as they journey with God.

If you would like to share your story, please let me know.

Peace,

Pr. Chris

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 .

OCTOBER CHRISTIAN OUTREACH UPDATE

36 bags of emergency food distributed

13 health/personal care kits distributed

421 FFTH lunches served

55 families served at Foodbank

Stewardship Moment

Dear Church,

For about the last year we have had a stewardship moment each month. Many of these were given by a representative of one of our committees here at First and highlighted what they do. Many of these activities are pretty visible to the congregation. This month I was asked to highlight some of the more behind the scenes activities that take place here at First.

Listed below are some examples of those behind-the-scenes activities.

Housekeeping crew – a crew that comes in roughly once a month for some focused cleaning of spaces throughout the church.

Counters – a group of folks who come in and make sure that offerings get counted properly.

Newsletter Folders – this group gets our monthly newsletter folded and labeled, ready to deliver to you.

Emergency Food – we have a couple of folks who organize the donations and go shopping to fill in the gaps so that we can give food to people in need.

Plastic recycling – a group packs up and weighs the plastic we are collecting so that it can be recycled.

Visitor Bags – we have person who makes up bags for our visitors. A little gift to welcome them and give them some information about First.

Lights – we have a person that comes in and adjust the timers for the outside lights.

Angel Food Cakes – we have a person who picks those up each month and delivers them to Meals on Wheels.

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OPERATION REINDEER GIFT SUGGESTIONS continued:

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,
Gently used luggage.**

SWPA LDR Trips – save the dates...

Interested in a mission trip? SWPA LDR is arranging another trip to Arden (Asheville area) NC, May 3-9, 2026. Save the date and keep an eye out for more details. A youth trip is also being arranged to Johnstown for July 5-8, more details to come about this trip as well.

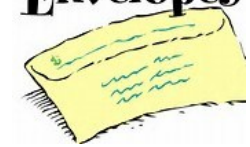
Financial Update Through October 2025		
Giving		
2025	2024	Budget
\$ 188,703	\$ 177,414	\$ 205,000
Expense		
2025	2024	Budget
\$ 352,829	\$ 341,871	\$ 389,372

DECEMBER 2025 *Please note that this schedule of events is subject to change.*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 6:00 Executive	3 FOOD/HEART Noon	4 6:15 Handbells	5	6
7 8:15 Worship 9:30 SCS 10:45 Worship NOISY OFFERING ADVENT2	8 Bible Study 1:30 & 6:00	9 6:00 Council	10 FOOD/HEART Noon	11 6:15 Handbells 7:00 Ruth Circle	12	13
14 8:15 Worship 9:30 SCS 10:00 Choir 10:45 Worship JAVA TABLE ADVENT 3	15 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	16 6:30 Finance	17 FOOD/HEART Noon	18 FOOD BANK	19	20
21 9:30 Worship Children's Christmas Program ADVENT 4	22	23	24 CHRISTMAS EVE 4:00 Worship 7:30 Choir 8:00 Worship	25 Office Closed 	26 Office Closed	27
28 9:30 Worship	29 NEWSLETTER FOLDING	30	31			

OFFERING ENVELOPES AVAILABLE SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

Offering Envelopes



2026 offering envelopes will be available in the Narthex beginning Sunday, December 7. 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 2026 envelopes before January first as your envelope number may have changed. Offerings received in the church office or postmarked on or before December 28th will be credited as gifts for 2025.