

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**

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

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

**February 2023**



Pastor's Note

Dear Friends in Christ,

It almost seems that January only has 28 days this year. Of course, I know that isn't true, it still has 31 days, just like always, but at least for me it seems that we are speeding toward February and there will only be 28 days of February. Regardless how fast February will seem to progress, as we get toward the end of the month we will be invited to *shift gears* as we enter into the season of Lent on Ash Wednesday, this year February 22<sup>nd</sup>.

As we gather together for worship on Ash Wednesday we will be reminded of our mortality as that ashen cross is marked on our foreheads and we hear that we are dust and to dust we will return. That can be difficult to hear and although it is true, we as Christians know that the truth doesn't end there. In Christ, we find salvation and life everlasting.

The words of the Psalm seem to stand out for me at this moment. "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit" (Psalm 51:10-12). Perhaps these words stand out this year, because we just took the "J-O-Y" out of the front yard?

As we enter the season of Lent, we enter a season of contemplation. It is a season where we are invited to consider our relationship with God and God's relationship with us. We ask God to take our troubles and concerns, creating clean hearts within us, so that we may better know the JOY of God's salvation.

May you all know the JOY of salvation.

May the peace of Christ be with you always,

*Pastor Chris*



# FRIENDSHIP SUNDAY

## BOWLING PARTY

12:30 PM February, 12

MAIN BOWLING CENTER

513 SOUTH MAIN STREET  
GREENSBURG, PA 15601

**\$5.00 per person—Bring a friend!**

**Price includes bowling, shoe rental, pizza & drinks.**

**RSVP to the church office no later than**

**Sunday, February 5, 2023.**

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### FRIENDSHIP SUNDAY BOWLING PARTY

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Tickets \_\_\_\_\_ x \$5.00 = \_\_\_\_\_



### FIRLU HAS HEARD...

-that as of December 25th, our offering receipts were 191,790; last year they were 184,262.

-that First is a very generous congregation. In 2022 more than \$143,000 were disbursed as benevolent gifts in various forms. This accounts for more than 33% of total expenditures for the year. Thank you for your generosity!

that the JAVA TABLE will be open February 12.

-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 March newsletter is Friday, February 17. Please be prompt. You may submit your articles to [office@felchurch.org](mailto:office@felchurch.org).

-that the Congregation Meeting and Dinner will be February 5. Meat, rolls, and dessert will be provided. Church members are asked to bring a vegetable or salad dish, and place settings.

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

See you at worship,  
FIRLU

## Serving At Worship In February 2023

2/5

2/12

2/19

2/26

### ACOLYTES

Molly Boggs		Noah Boggs	Molly Boggs
Addy Saraceni	Bradley Schmidt	Corrina Vuick	Nicholas Vuick

### LECTORS

David von Schlichten	Mark Barnhart	Sue Boggs	Pat Yost
Shirley Huls	Sunshine Keiser	Dan Krack	Dianna Marusko

### ASSISTING MINISTERS

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

Bev Attenberger  
Sue Ross



### Offering Envelopes



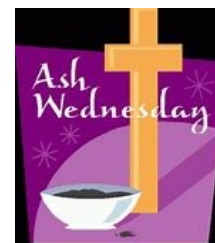
**2023 OFFERING ENVELOPES** have arrived! The boxes are in the Narthex. You are asked to pick up your envelopes before or after worship, or anytime during the week. Please deliver a box to a shut-in, family member, or neighbor who may not be able to take their box. **NOTE:** Your envelope number may have changed – **DO NOT** use 2022 envelopes now. Please only use 2023 envelopes.

## SHROVETIDE BRUNCH - SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19

The First Family will gather for a “Shrovetide Brunch” the Sunday before Lent, February 19, following the 10:45 AM worship service.

The menu will include: pancakes, sausage, syrup, orange juice, coffee, and tea. Reservation forms will be included in the Sunday bulletin. A donation to defray expenses may be given if you so desire.

Shrovetide traditions of the past included using all of the flour in the house in preparation for the fasting of Lent. The days preceding Ash Wednesday became festive days with focus on increased baking, fellowship, and fun (as in the Mardi Gras tradition). We adapt this tradition with our pancake brunch for the First Lutheran family. Join us as we enjoy this time of food and fellowship.



## Ash Wednesday Worship

February 22

11:00 AM and 6:00 PM

**Worship in Word and Sacrament with the Imposition of Ashes.**

## 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 February offering will go to **Lutherlyn Capital Fund Drive**.

**RUTH CIRCLE** will meet Thursday, February 9 at 7:00 PM in the Parlor. All women of the congregation are invited to attend. There will be a short meeting followed by devotions, dessert, and fellowship.

*"Thou wilt show me the path of life: in thy presence is fullness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore"*

*Psalm 16:11*

## MEMORIAL GIFTS RECEIVED



First Lutheran Church's Memorial Fund has received a gift in memory of Alice Ruff from Dave and Sue Cobb.



## JOIN OUR MARCH FOR PARKS TEAM!

We are organizing a First Lutheran TEAM to participate in the MARCH FOR PARKS on Saturday, March 25. The event will take place at Twin Lakes Park in Greensburg, where it all began 21 years ago.... The March for Parks raises funds for the County Parks and Trails. There will be a pancake breakfast, raffles, live entertainment, historic activities, and a “march” around Twin Lakes Park. The March for Parks is also celebrating Westmoreland County's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary! To register, go to [www.co.westmoreland.pa.us/parks](http://www.co.westmoreland.pa.us/parks). You will need to enter the **team name as First Lutheran** and the team captain as Molly Maga. As in the past all funds raised by the First Lutheran Team will be matched by the Matching Gifts program. First Lutheran has been a strong participant ever since the March began in 2003 and has won many awards in the team competition. This year, the Parks are raising funds to renovate and add new facilities at all four regional parks (Twin Lakes, Cedar Creek, Mammoth, and Northmoreland), purchase land for the completion of the Westmoreland Heritage Trail middle gap from Export to Delmont, renovate the Five Star Trail, and miscellaneous upgrades at other County Parks. Please join us on March 25! You will have fun, get some exercise, and show our community that First Lutheran is an active church committed to helping make Westmoreland County a better place to live and work!

## CHURCH DIRECTORY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are in need of an updated pictorial church directory. It will help us put a name to a familiar face and unify our congregation. The roster will have all current addresses and telephone numbers for reference and better communication.

There is no charge to the church for the service.

Every household that participates will receive a complimentary directory plus an 8x10 portrait and the opportunity to purchase additional portraits.

We will be using Universal Church Directories program to manage the event and we just need a few volunteers to help set up. If you have been looking for a time and talent opportunity but cannot offer a long term commitment, this is a wonderful opportunity – a short term project that will come to an end and is necessary and rewarding.

Opportunities include helping with portrait appointment sign-ups several Sundays between services, greeting our families during photography and taking and collecting photographs for our church's activity pages and ministries.

There will be a Directory meeting to discuss the above on March 9, 2023 at 6:30pm at the church.

Please let the church office or Rebecca Brunetta know if you would like to volunteer. And thank you for your kind consideration!

### Church Photo Directory



### SAVE THE DATE!

Please join us in our new Church Directory.

You will get to know each other and be able to put a name to a face!

**PHOTO DATES** are April 27 – 29, 2023  
(weekdays 2-8:30pm & Saturday 10:30am – 5pm)

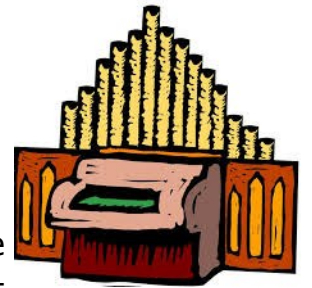
Sign up information to be announced at a later date.

You will get a free directory (which will include both photos and a roster of all church families) and 8x10 portrait just for participating and you will have the opportunity to buy additional family portraits.

From the Organ Bench....Marvin Huls

### ON THE SONG OF THE CHURCH

(by Dietrich Bonhoeffer)



Why do Christians sing when they are together? The reason is, quite simply, because in singing together it is possible for them to speak and pray the same Word at the same time; in other words, because here they can UNITE in the Word.

There should be singing, not only at devotions, but at regular times of the day or week. The more we sing, the more joy will we derive from it, but, above all, the more devotion and discipline and joy we put into our singing, the richer will be the blessing that will come to the whole life of the fellowship from singing together.

It is the voice of the Church that is heard in singing together. It is not you that sings. It is the Church that is singing, and you, as a member of the Church, may share in its song. Thus all singing together that is right must serve to widen our spiritual horizon, make us see our little company as a member of the great Christian Church on earth, and help us willingly and gladly to join our singing, be it feeble or good, to the song of the Church.


### 2023 LENTEN CONGREGATIONAL PROJECT

Traditional cooking stoves can burn a lot of wood and fill small homes with dangerous smoke that leads to a host of health problems for families. More efficient stoves can burn a variety of fuels, produce less smoke and maintain heat better, which means **families burn less wood and face fewer health risks**. Our project this year will be to raise enough money during Lent to purchase 20 Environmentally Friendly Cookstoves from ELCA Good Gifts at a price of \$105 each.



# February 2023

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>BELLS WILL PRACTICE 9:30 AM &amp; CHOIR WILL PRACTICE 10:15 AM EVERY SUNDAY IN FEBRUARY.</b>			<b>1</b> FOOD/HEART Noon 6:00 Fellowship	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> 8:15 Worship 9:30 SCS 10:45 Worship Annual Meeting/Luncheon NOISY OFFERING	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>  6:00 Council	<b>8</b> FOOD/HEART Noon	<b>9</b>  7:00 Ruth Circle	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> 8:15 Worship 9:30 SCS 10:45 Worship JAVA TABLE Family Bowling Party	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>   6:30 Ch. Ed./Youth	<b>15</b> FOOD/HEART Noon	<b>16</b> FOOD PANTRY	<b>17</b>  MARCH NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> 8:15 Worship 9:30 SCS 10:15 Choir 10:45 Worship Shrovetide Breakfast	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>  6:30 Finance	<b>22</b> FOOD/HEART Noon Ash Wednesday Services 11 AM & 6 PM 6:30 Property	<b>23</b>  NEWSLETTER FOLDING	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 8:15 Worship 9:30 SCS 10:45 Worship LENT 1	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>  6:30 Executive				

## CONGREGATION DINNER / MEETING

### February 5

Join the First Lutheran Family for business and fellowship on February 5 immediately following the 10:45 AM service. **Lunch and fellowship will include a meal with meat, rolls, beverages, and dessert provided.** You are asked to bring a covered dish of vegetables or salad and your own place settings.



There will be printed copies available when we gather for the annual meeting on February 5.