

FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
 246 South Main Street
 Greensburg, Pennsylvania 15601-3183
 T: 724-834-1457
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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

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

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**FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
 GREENSBURG, PA**



PHONE 724-834-1457
 FAX 724-834-1469

office@felchurch.org

February 2025

Pastor's Note

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.



1 Corinthians 12:4-7 (NRSV)

Dear Friends in Christ,

As I write to you this month, we are in the midst of one of the coldest and snowiest spells I can remember for quite some time. Actually, as I drove into the church this morning, I saw temperatures in the car as low as -15F and it seems that we have had quite a bit of shoveling to do in January.

I know that a lot of us would rather have warmer weather, but in the midst of this cold and snowy January, I was reminded of the snowflake. A single ice-crystal that falls to the ground. When combined with thousands of other snowflakes we often find a rather dull wintry landscape covered in beauty.

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Remembering that each snowflake is unique, I was reminded of the passage above from 1 Corinthians. We, like each snowflake, are unique. We have been given gifts from God in great variety. When we use those gifts together for the common good, we too can make our world, which can often seem dull and dreary, a more beautiful place.

As we move into February, I encourage you to consider the gifts that God has given you. Consider how you have and can continue to use those gifts for the common good, always remembering you are beautifully and wonderfully made; created in God's own image.

Together in Christ,
Pastor Chris

THE PARABLES OF JESUS



Interested in Jesus teaching through parables? Join the conversation as we explore some of Jesus' most interesting and challenging teachings.

You have two opportunities each month to join. We will gather at 1:30 PM and 6:00 PM on February 24 (Hidden Treasure, Pearl, and Net). Hope to see you there! Future Bible Studies will be March 31, April 28, and May 19.



FIRLU HAS HEARD...

-that as of December 24th, our general offering receipts were \$200,483. Last year they were \$196,056.

--that **Noisy Offering** will be collected the first Sunday of February to benefit Union Mission.

-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 Food Bank distribution is **Thursday, February 20**. 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, February 20, your effort will be greatly appreciated.

-that the deadline for the **March newsletter is Monday, February 17**. Please be prompt. You may submit your articles to office@felchurch.org.

See you at worship,
FIRLU

Financial Update Through December 2024		
Giving		
2024	2023	Budget
\$ 229,076	\$ 226,116	\$ 235,000
Expense		
2024	2023	Budget
\$ 425,123	\$ 435,172	\$ 450,649

Serving At Worship In February 2025

2/2

2/9

2/16

2/23

ACOLYTES

Nathaniel
Boggs

Noah Boggs
Owen Lenhart

Molly Boggs

Rachel Boggs

LECTORS

Mark Barnhart
Bob Errett

Dianna Marusko
Shirley Huls

Kim Woodley
Sunshine Keiser

Kevin Reilly
Dan Krack

ASSISTING MINISTERS

Tawnya Combs

Dianna Marusko

Rebecca
Brunetta

Carolyn Hanzel
Tawnya Combs

ALTAR GUILD

Bev Attenberger
Sue Ross



Not all of us can do great things. But
we can do small things with great love.
- Mother Teresa

I will
Follow
God
like
Ruth



RUTH CIRCLE will meet Thursday, February 13
at 7:00 PM in the church parlor. We welcome
all women of the congregation to join us in an
evening of fellowship and always delicious
dessert.

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.

Andy Rooneyisms - Too good not to share!!

I've learned.... That being kind is more important than being right.

I've learned.... That you should never say no to a gift from a child.

I've learned.... That I can always pray for someone when I don't have the strength to help him in some other way.

I've learned.... That no matter how serious your life requires you to be, everyone needs a friend to act goofy with.

FEBRUARY NOISY OFFERING IS FOR UNION MISSION

The Union Mission is a faith-based organization providing resources that lead to safe, affordable, and sustained housing.

Lives are forever changed when neighbors, businesses, landlords, churches – the community at large – all rally to ensure that a person or family experiencing homelessness has the support, dignity, and compassion they need.

The Union Mission has been working to pull together community members and people experiencing homelessness or other housing insecurities in Westmoreland and surrounding counties for over 30 years. Starting by taking the first resident into Emergency Shelter in 1987, the Mission has evolved into providing a system of interventions to assist people transition to safe, affordable, and sustained housing.

FOOD from the HEART: Recently FFTH has found it difficult to keep our cupboards stocked with nonperishables. We are asking the congregation for small monthly donations in the early months of 2025 to assist us with this problem. There will be boxes available in the Fellowship Hall for donations in February, and March.

Here is our wish list:

February: cans of fruit or jars of apple sauce.

March: broth, diced or crushed tomatoes or spaghetti sauce.

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

I work with the women of FFTH, we plan, prepare and serve up to 70 brownbag lunches every Wednesday to any one who would like one.

My journey with FFTH started years ago when my Mom and I wanted to be more involved in the life of First Lutheran. We had practiced our kitchen skills in our own kitchens for a lifetime and were confident that we could be helpful. We were, but meal prep for a large number of people is definitely different than getting dinner ready for your family. We learned so much along the way, shared life events as well as incidents at FFTH with the other women, laughed and fumed and made wonderful friendships. By now one would think that the program would run smoothly - **it does not!** Problem solving is constant, too much, too little, wrong ingredients, who can run out and get what is missing... on and on.

Giving back is a term that is probably overused, but no other phrase works when one is aware of the blessings in your life that may not be present in other's lives. Working in this capacity makes me feel that I am following Jesus' direction to love and serve my neighbors.

The congregation is so supportive of the program, I feel there is a pride in our efforts to help the community. The community in turn is aware of the giving nature of First's congregation and how God works through our church.

The clients seem to enjoy the meals and are grateful for the assistance, often voicing God's blessings to the workers, Pastor Chris and the church.

Bobbie Laciak

2025: Your year for abundant living

Many Christians think of “stewardship” only in financial terms, but money is only one of the gifts God entrusts us with – and it’s usually the one we value less than our gifts of time, relationships, faith and health.

Make 2025 your year for holistic stewardship - and abundant living - by taking steps to care better for ALL the gifts God entrusts to us, including our finances. Here are tips.

Health: Get a physical and ask your doctor to help you to form a strategy for better living. For most of us, the plan would include eating better, exercising more and practicing wellness.

Relationships: We not only share love and joy with family and friends, but also turn to and rely on them in times of trouble. Care for your relationships with honest and frequent communication, get-togethers and sharing. Renew and repair relationships that need it.

Time: Are you just mindlessly counting the hours and days? Take charge of your time by planning events and activities that enrich your life. Plan for health and relationships.

Faith: No matter where you are on your discipleship journey, all of us can draw closer to God and open ourselves more fully to the Holy Spirit. For 2024, commit to regular worship, prayer, Scripture reading, devotions, service and other faith practices.

Money: Get your finances in order. Consider the 10-10-80 plan, budgeting your income to save 10 percent, give away 10 percent, and living on 80 percent.

God has given us so much. Stewarding the most important aspects of our lives can bring us into the life of abundance that Jesus promises us in John 10:10.

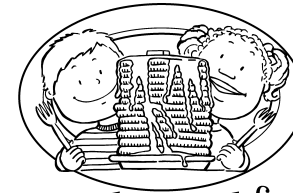
--Rob Blezard

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SHROVETIDE BRUNCH

SUNDAY, March 2

The First Family will gather for a “Shrovetide Brunch” the Sunday before Lent, March 2, following the 10:45 AM worship service.



Pancake Breakfast expenses may be given if you so desire.

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

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.

“O Lord, you provide vindication and justice for all who are oppressed.”

Psalm 10:17

February 2025

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 8:15 Worship 9:30 SCS 10:00 Choir 10:45 Worship NOISY OFFERING ANNUAL MEETING	3 6:30 Stewardship	4 6:00 Executive	5 FOOD/HEART Noon 6:30 Fellowship	6 6:15 Handbells	7	8 9 AM Council Retreat
9 8:15 Worship 9:30 SCS 10:00 Choir 10:45 Worship JAVA TABLE	10	11	12 FOOD/HEART Noon	13 FOOD BANK 6:15 Handbells 7:00 Ruth Circle	14	15
16 8:15 Worship 9:30 SCS 10:00 Choir 10:45 Worship	17 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	18 6:30 Finance	19 FOOD/HEART Noon	20 FOOD BANK 6:15 Handbells	21	22
23 8:15 Worship 9:30 SCS 10:00 Choir 10:45 Worship	24 1:30 & 6:00 Bible study	25 NEWSLETTER FOLDING 6:30 Ch. Ed/Youth	26 FOOD/HEART Noon 6:30 Property	27 6:15 Handbells	28	

CONGREGATION DINNER / MEETING February

Join the First Lutheran Family for business and fellowship on February 2nd 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 are printed copies available at the back of the church for the annual meeting on February 2.