

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
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

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GREENSBURG, PA**

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

office@felchurch.org

January 2023



Pastor's Note

Dear Friends in Christ,

Happy New Year! I hope that you all had a Merry and Blessed Christmas. As you receive this note, you have probably finished your celebrations for the New Year and perhaps the bustle and excitement of Christmas is starting to fade. In the world, Christmas is over and much of the focus will turn toward Valentines' Day, but in the church we are still in the season of Christmas.

The season of Advent, the season of expectant waiting is over, we now have a season to focus on the birth of Jesus Christ. In last month's note, I invited you to consider that beautiful hymn, *What Child is This*. Then the question was "who" is it that we are waiting on. Now in this season of Christmas, the waiting is over and we celebrate the birth of a child.

We recognize that the birth of a child is always a wonderous time. This birth is different though. Now we celebrate, not only the birth of a child, but the birth of our Savior. It is God now in the flesh, that has come to us. We celebrate Emmanuel, "which means, 'God is with us'" (Matthew 1:23b). This birth changes everything, forever!

In this past year many have faced challenges, big and small. I pray that you all may find comfort in Emmanuel, God with us. As you consider this in a New Year, may you also consider the words of St. Paul, "So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see everything has become new!" (2 Corinthians 5:17). How do you find yourself being made new each and every day, because of the birth of a Savior that changes everything, forever?

May the peace of Christ be with you always,

Pastor Chris

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 January offering will go to **Lutherlyn Capital Fund Drive**.

RUTH CIRCLE will meet Thursday, January 12 at 7:30 PM in the Parlor. All women of the congregation are welcome to attend. There will be a short business meeting, devotions, dessert, and fellowship.

*"Our soul waits for the Lord; he is
our help and our shield."*

Psalm 33:21



MEMORIAL GIFTS RECEIVED

First Lutheran Church's Memorial Fund has received gifts in memory of Albert Danilko from Frank and Barb Renda, Dwight and Jean Miller, and Dennis and Kathy Acita. A gift in memory of Mary Leppold has been received from Dwight and Jean Miller. A gift in memory of Evelyn Sager has been received from Judi Seanor.



FIRLU HAS HEARD...

-that as of November 25th, our offering receipts were 169,605; last year they were 159,456.

-that sympathy is extended to the families of Evelyn Sager and Alice Ruff.

-that the JAVA TABLE will be open January 8.

-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 February newsletter is Monday, January 16. Please be prompt. You may submit your articles to 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 Christian Education will have a Friendship Sunday Bowling Party after second service February 12 at Main Bowling Lanes. Look for a reservation form in bulletins and the February newsletter.

-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 January 2023

1/1 1/8 1/15 1/22 1/29

ACOLYTES

Aaron Woodley	Noah Boggs	Molly Boggs	Aaron Woodley	Noah Boggs
	Noah Vuick	Benjamin Gustafson	Tessa Miller	Tyler Miller

LECTORS

	Sue Boggs	Sherry Menz	Jean Miller	Kim Nicassio
Malcolm Sias	Megan Zobb	Jeanne Christensen	Rebecca Brunetta	Bob Errett

ASSISTING MINISTERS

Carolyn Hanzel	Mia Saraceni	Dianna Marusko	Rebecca Brunetta	Carolyn Hanzel
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ALTAR GUILD

Bev Attenberger
Shirley Huls



OFFERING ENVELOPES

Offering Envelopes



2023 OFFERING ENVELOPES have NOT been delivered yet. You may use the gold pew envelopes. To receive credit, please be sure to write your full name on the outside of the envelope. Please watch the weekly e-blasts for updates.

FROM THE ORGAN BENCH.....

There were four businessmen at a conference who were delayed and were sure they would miss their flight home. They raced to find a taxi, paid a handsome tip to the cabbie, and asked him to get them to the airport quickly, for time was short. They raced through the terminals, all seeking the gate printed on their boarding passes. They ran through the terminals, bobbing and weaving against the large crowd of travelers. As they ran, two of them, not watching where they were going, ran into a table filled with bags of apples that a young woman was selling. Everything went flying...the bags, the apples and the two businessmen. They got up and started running again to get to their gate. When the men began boarding, one of the two men who had knocked over the table, stood back and looked at the electronic board with the arriving and departing flights. Then he silently turned around, said goodbye to his three friends, and walked back through the terminal, knowing he was going to miss his flight and would have to take a later flight.

Time was no longer short for him, for time now had a purpose and meaning. It had the texture of compassion and humility. He found the table, still upset with apples all over the floor, some being kicked by passer-byes, others just rolling about. He found the young girl, sitting by the table on her knees crying.

He stopped and saw that the girl was blind and was selling apples to bring some kind of income to her family. He began to pick up all the apples he could find and put them in bags. He straightened up the table, returned her chair to the right spot, and then pushed several large bills into her hand saying, 'this will pay for the damages and the lost apples.' As he walked off toward his gate to wait several hours for the next flight home, he heard the girl ask into the space that he had just occupied: "Sir, are you Jesus?...Are you Jesus?"

May the time we all have spent in such ways that others might mistake us for Jesus, the Lord of love.

January 2023

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:00 Worship NOISY OFFERING	2	3	4 FOOD/HEART Noon 6:00 Fellowship	5	6	7
8 8:15 Worship 9:30 SCS 10:45 Worship JAVA TABLE	9	10 6:30 Ch. Ed./Youth 6:30 Executive	11 FOOD/HEART Noon	12 6:15 Bells 7:00 Choir 7:30 Ruth Circle	13	14
15 8:15 Worship 9:30 SCS 10:45 Worship	16 FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	17 6:30 Finance	18 FOOD/HEART Noon	19 FOOD PANTRY 6:15 Bells 7:00 Choir	20	21 9:00 AM Council Meeting & Retreat
22 8:15 Worship 9:30 SCS 10:45 Worship	23	24	25 FOOD/HEART Noon 6:30 Property	26 NEWSLETTER FOLDING 6:15 Bells 7:00 Choir	27	28
29 8:15 Worship 9:30 SCS 10:45 Worship	30	31 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 at the back of the church beginning January 22 and also when we gather for the annual meeting on February 5.