

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

**CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Kip Boggs	
Rebecca Brunetta	President
Tom Flory	
Linda Griffith	
Teresa Graziotto	
Charlie Kaylor	
Dan Krack	
Bobbie Laciak	
Leon (Bud) Nusselt	
William Pfeifer III	
Holly Rowe	Vice President
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 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  
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 GREENSBURG, PA**

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

office@felchurch.org

**January 2026**



Pastor's Note

*In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage."*

(Matthew 2:1-2 NRSV)



Dear Friends in Christ,

I hope you all had a Blessed and Merry Christmas and that this New Year is a Happy one! The twelve days of Christmas are almost over and on January 6<sup>th</sup> we celebrate Epiphany and enter into the next season of the church year.

The word epiphany comes from Greek and means to show or to reveal and as a noun means appearance or manifestation. Our celebration of Epiphany typically focuses on the Magi's visit to Christ after seeing His star rise over Bethlehem. It is a day when we are reminded of Christ's light shining to all people. Jesus is the Messiah, the one proclaimed in prophecy to redeem the Jewish people, but in Jesus' revelation to the wisemen we remember that redemption isn't limited.

*(Continued on Page 2)*

Pastor's Note

As we remember this revealing, this Epiphany, we also remember that Christ continued to reveal Himself beyond just this event with the wisemen. At His baptism, we see the Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit revealing Christ's nature and identity to us. At the wedding at Cana, Christ revealed His Divine power, and Christ continues to reveal Himself and God's love and grace to us today.

In this New Year, may we be reminded of God's love for us, most clearly revealed to us in Christ. And may we also be encouraged to look for the ways Christ continues to reveal that love to us. In word and sacrament, in the words and deeds of the faithful around us, and in countless other ways.

Together let us give thanks for the hope that Christ's light brings to a world in need and pray that His light and love shine through us, this New Year and always.

Together in Christ,  
Pastor Chris

**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.



**FIRLU HAS HEARD...**

-that as of November 30<sup>th</sup>, our general offering receipts were \$186,472. Last year they were \$169,827.

-that **Noisy Offering** will be collected the first Sunday of January to benefit First Lutheran Food Pantry.

-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, January 11.

-that Food Bank distribution is **Thursday, January 15**. 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 the deadline for the **February newsletter is Monday, January 19**. Please be prompt. You may submit your articles to [office@felchurch.org](mailto:office@felchurch.org).

See you at worship,  
FIRLU

Financial Update Through November 2025		
Giving		
2025	2024	Budget
\$ 209,962	\$ 193,094	\$ 225,500
Expense		
2025	2024	Budget
\$ 380,297	\$ 364,490	\$ 428,310

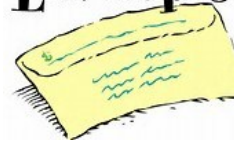
# Serving At Worship In January 2026

	1/4	1/11	1/18	1/25
8:15 Acolyte	Rachel Boggs	Colton Boggs	Nathaniel Boggs	Molly Boggs
10:45 Acolyte		Owen Lenhart		
8:15 Lector	Kevin Reilly	Liz Rowe	Bill Pfeifer	Kim Woodley
10:45 Lector	Jeanne Christensen	Bob Errett	Sunshine Keiser	Dianna Marusko
8:15 Worship Assistant	Dianna Marusko	Kim Woodley		Kim Woodley
10:45 Worship Assistant	Dianna Marusko	Tawnya Combs	Rebecca Brunetta	Dianna Marusko



For January includes Bobbie Laciak and Shirley Huls.

## Offering Envelopes



### OFFERING ENVELOPES AVAILABLE

2026 offering envelopes are available 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 2025 envelopes now. Please only use 2026 envelopes.

### 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](mailto:fraternal@thrivent.com).

*"For the Lord takes pleasure in his people, he will beautify the meek with salvation"*

*Psalm 149:4*

## JANUARY NOISY OFFERING IS FOR FIRST LUTHERAN FOOD PANTRY

Christian Outreach is a very active ministry at First Lutheran Church. One of the ways we serve the community is through our Emergency Food Pantry. We maintain a supply of nonperishable food items which are used to assist many individuals and families. There is also a need for personal care items, which are stocked as well. Monetary donations help to purchase what is needed to keep the pantry well stocked. Also, donations of nonperishables and personal care items are always welcome and appreciated. The Emergency Food Pantry, along with our monthly Food Bank distribution and weekly Food From the Heart luncheon program are ways we are helping with the very serious problem of food insecurity in our community. Thank you for your support!

### NOVEMBER CHRISTIAN OUTREACH UPDATE

23 bags of emergency food distributed

5 health/personal care kits distributed

421 FFTH lunches served

71 households served at Foodbank

## 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, **113 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:



## Stewardship Moment

For nearly 30 years this church, along with WCFB has supported the onsite feeding program known as Food From the Heart. The program began as a monthly luncheon served in the Fellowship Hall and evolved into a weekly event feeding up to 100 people. All in the community are welcome, there are no income parameters. After a hiatus due to COVID, lunches resumed as a Brown Bag take out which now provides up to 86 meals to go to the our fellow Greensburg citizens.

**THANK YOU:** Once again the Christian Outreach Team would like to thank the congregation for their overwhelming response to Operation Reindeer. Due to your generosity ten large bags filled with gifts for Torrance residents were delivered.

I will  
Follow  
God  
like  
Ruth

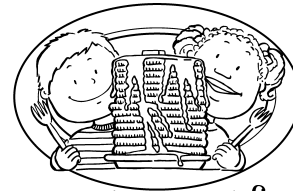


Ruth Circle invites all ladies of the congregation to join them on January 8th at 7:00 PM in the church parlor for an evening of fellowship and delicious dessert.



**Altar  
Flowers**

**ALTAR FLOWERS** are needed for February 8 and March 15, 2026. Contact the church office if you would like to provide altar flowers for either of these dates. Cost is \$50.00.



Pancake Breakfast

## SHROVETIDE BRUNCH

**SUNDAY, February 15**

The First Family will gather for a “Shrovetide Brunch” the Sunday before Lent, February 15, 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.



## Angel Tree Thank You

Thanks to the generosity of the congregation, we were able to provide 29 children in the food pantry program with gifts this Christmas.

# JANUARY 2026

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Office Closed	2 Office Closed	3
4 8:15 Worship 9:30 SCS 10:45 Worship NOISY OFFERING	5	6  6:00 Executive	7 FOOD/HEART Noon  6:30 Fellowship 6:30 Property	8  6:15 Handbells 7:00 Ruth Circle	9	10
11 8:15 Worship 9:30 SCS 10:00 Choir 10:45 Worship JAVA TABLE	12	13  6:00 Council	14 FOOD/HEART Noon  6:30 Christian Outreach	15  FOOD BANK  6:15 Handbells	16	17
18 8:15 Worship 9:30 SCS 10:45 Worship	19 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE  Bible Study 1:30 & 6:00	20  6:30 Finance	21 FOOD/HEART Noon	22  6:15 Handbells	23	24
25 8:15 Worship 9:30 SCS 10:00 Choir 10:45 Worship	26	27 NEWSLETTER FOLDING  6:30 Ch. Ed. Youth	28 FOOD/HEART Noon  6:30 Property	29  6:15 Handbells	30	31

## CONGREGATION DINNER / MEETING February

Join the First Lutheran Family for business and fellowship on February 1st immediately following the one worship service at 9:30 am. **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 18 and also when we gather for the annual meeting on February 1st. **Constitution** updates will also be considered at the annual meeting. Copies will be available at the beginning of January.