

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**

Debra Black  
 Rebecca Brunetta Vice President  
 Brian Erdman  
 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

**July 2024**

Pastor's Note

*Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.*

*(Hebrews 12:1-2, NRSV)*

Dear Friends in Christ,

I have inherited quite a few books over the years. Somewhere along the way, I inherited a little book simply titled, "Best Bible Verses." I can't recall exactly how this little book came into my possession, and I can't say that I have referenced it often, if at all. Today though as I was looking at my bookshelf, it caught my eye.

I was thankful when I picked up this book that in the first few pages there was an explanation about the book. The author recognized that it is not easy to choose the "best" verses and that different people at different times would likely choose different verses. Nevertheless, I was curious what might be some of the "best" verses and the section on patience drew my attention.

Patience so often seems to be lacking in our fast-paced world. So often we find ourselves being impatient. I am not sure that I know anyone who enjoys waiting in line and I am sure that I am not the only one who has become impatient waiting behind a driver who failed to recognize the light had turned green. (In all fairness, I have also been that driver.)

*(Continued on Page 2)*

(Continued from Page 1)

The passage above from Hebrews was the first of a number of passages related to patience. In this translation, we are reminded to run with perseverance..., but in other translations it is to run with patience. The race that is set before us, our journey of faith, is not a sprint, it is a marathon. Such a race requires patience.

What I find most significant here though is that while we are reminded to run the race with patience or perseverance, we are assured that we do not run the race alone. We are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses, and we always have Jesus to look toward. He endured the cross for our sake and he remains patient even with our impatience.

As you hopefully find joy in these summer months, may you also find ever increasing patience in the one whose love endures forever.

Together in Christ,  
Pastor Chris

## Giving Near, Giving Far

Giving connects me to my place in the world and to faraway places. One of the things I love about Habitat for Humanity is that you actually get to see what you are supporting. What a thrill to drive by a house your gift helped to build! You can even work on a house if you want to. Giving to my congregation and hometown causes strengthens my ties to the people God has put around me.

Giving to people across the world connects me to those whose lives are very different, and usually much more difficult, than mine. When I help fund a well to provide clean drinking water halfway around the world, I get a better sense of what so many people in the world are up against. Turning on my faucet becomes a whole new experience for me, an experience that helps me gauge my responsibilities to God's children everywhere.

This was excerpted from Daily Grace, a daily devotional prepared by Women of the ELCA. Used with permission.

Learn more about Daily Grace at [welca.org/dailygrace](http://welca.org/dailygrace).



## FIRLU HAS HEARD...

-that as of May 24th, our offering receipts were \$77,296. Last year they were \$77,301.

-that **Noisy Offering** will be collected the first Sunday of July to benefit the Bethlehem Project.

-that sympathy is extended to the family of Teresa Grove.

-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 there will be no Sunday Church School during the summer months. Sunday Church School will resume September 8 with Rally Recreation Day. Regular worship schedule will resume **September 8**. Continental Breakfast will resume September 15.

-that the JAVA TABLE will not be open in July and August.

-that **ALTAR FLOWERS** are needed for December 1, 2024. Cost is \$50.00. Please contact the church office if you would like to provide the altar flowers for this date in memory or honor of someone.

-that Food Bank distribution is **Thursday July 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, July 18, your effort will be greatly appreciated.

-that the deadline for the August newsletter is Friday, July 19. Please be prompt. You may submit your articles to [office@felchurch.org](mailto:office@felchurch.org).

See you at worship,  
FIRLU

# Serving At Worship In July 2024

7/7                      7/14                      7/21                      7/28

## ACOLYTES

Corrina Vuick              Molly Boggs              Corrina Vuick              Molly Boggs

## LECTORS

Dan Krack                      Liz Rowe                      Bill Pfeifer                      Megan Zobb

## ASSISTING MINISTERS

Tawnya Combs              Rebecca Brunetta              Carolyn Hanzel              Tawnya Combs

## ALTAR GUILD

Roberta Laciak  
Ann Copper



*“But you Lord are a shield around me,  
my glory, the one who lifts  
my head high.”*

*Psalm 3:3*

# Youth & Family Event Statler’s Fun Center

**When:** Sunday July 14<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 PM

**Where:** Statler’s Fun Center  
386 Frye Farm Road,  
Greensburg, PA

(No food or drinks will be provided at this event.)

**Package 1:** Mini Golf only - \$5.00  
Kids 5 & under - \$3.00

**Package 2:** Single Kart & Mini Golf - \$10  
Children must be at least 10 years old and 57" tall to drive by themselves.

**Package 3:** Double Karts & Mini Golf - \$11  
Available for smaller Children to ride with an adult. Must be 18 years old to drive. Kids must be at least 36" tall to ride as a passenger.

**Please have reservations and money to the Church by July 7<sup>th</sup>.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Packages	Quantity	\$ Total
Package 1:	_____ x \$ 5.00 =	_____
5 yrs.& younger	_____ x \$ 3.00 =	_____
Package 2:	_____ x \$10.00 =	_____
Package 3:	_____ x \$11.00 =	_____

## BIBLES FOR LOVE PACKAGES

### BIBLES WILL BE COLLECTED THROUGH RALLY DAY



Do you have old Bibles that you no longer use or have inherited and don't know what to do with them? Well, we have an answer.

Beginning in January and running for several months, First Lutheran will collect used and/or new Bibles as well as Sunday School materials and other Christian materials to send to "Love Packages."

### Putting the Word of God into Hungry Hands All Over the World

Love Packages collects bible donations—as well as donations of Christian books, Sunday School materials, and more—from people and publishers across the U.S. and ship it to our network of distributors all over the world. Love Packages is fueling international missions work and sending the gospel to the ends of the earth by putting donated bibles and other Christian literature into the hands of people around the world. Some of the locations shipped to include Kenya, India, Uganda, South America and others in need. They ship over 1,500 tons of recycled gospel literature to the mission field every year.

### Items we are collecting are:

**Bibles** – new or used, any translation, New Testaments or other portions, individual gospel booklets.

**Reference Material** – Dictionaries, Bible dictionaries, concordances, commentaries, etc.

**Books** – all Christian books – adult or children, non-fiction.

**Magazines and Daily Devotionals** – any devotionals or magazine from a Christian publisher.

**Sunday School Materials** – adult quarterlies and all teacher manuals in any amount from all publishers; children's quarterlies with the teacher's manual and full student manuals.

**CDs, DVDs, Blu-ray** – Christian music & movies.

**Puppets, Nativity Sets, etc.** – bible games, biblical puzzles – anything that helps teach the gospel, especially to children.



## MEMORIAL GIFTS RECEIVED

First Lutheran Church's Memorial Fund has received gifts Food from the Heart in memory of Teresa Grove from Joey, Belinda, and Judy Sedlak, Malcolm and Patti Sias, Dennis and Kathy Acita, and the Women at FFTH.

### Rally Day Cookies for First Responders!

Hands are needed to:

- Make cookies!
- Deliver cookies to the Fellowship Hall by 10 am Saturday September 7<sup>th</sup>!
- Pack cookies on Saturday September 7<sup>th</sup>.
- Deliver cookies to First Responders after Church on Sunday. September 8<sup>th</sup>.



Our Thanks for your help!

The Christian Outreach Committee

### MESSAGE FOR THRIVENT FINANCIAL MEMBERS

At the first of each year, 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).

# SUMMER FOOD DRIVE

During the summer months, the Christian Outreach Committee will be collecting nonperishable items for our Emergency Food Cupboard. These items will be used to assist many individuals and families in our community.

July is “Carb Month”. Suggested items are:

- Pasta / pasta sauce
- Pouch / Box sides (pasta/rice/potato/stuffing, etc.)
- Mac & Cheese
- Crackers (saltines, etc.)

August is “Canned Food Month”. Items especially needed are:

- Soup
- Fruit
- Canned pasta (SpaghettiOs, etc.)



A box is located in the education building foyer for your donations.

Please **check the expiration dates** before donating, as we cannot distribute expired items in the Emergency Food bags.

Thank you!

# BIBLES FOR LOVE PACKAGES continued

Boxes for your items will be located in the Narthex, the Education Building and the Fellowship Hall.

For more information on Love Packages check them out on [lovepackages.org](http://lovepackages.org).

We will continue collecting until Rally Day, September 8th.

# NOISY OFFERING FOR JULY



The **BETHLEHEM PROJECT** is a social ministry of Blessed Sacrament Cathedral Parish in Greensburg that seeks to prevent homelessness in the central Westmoreland County area. Homelessness prevention is achieved by providing comprehensive resource information and referral services, education on tenant and landlord rights and responsibilities, pastoral counseling, and limited financial support.

The Goals of the Bethlehem Project are to respond to the needs of the homeless and near homeless by

- Providing funds for emergency shelter or first month’s rent in collaboration with the County Housing Authority, the State Department of Welfare and other social service agencies.
- Assisting local shelters by providing needed items several times during the year.
- Making necessary referrals to other social service agencies.
- Educating the community on laws relating to housing, including the rights and responsibilities of landlords and tenants
- Maintaining ongoing follow up when necessary with those served to encourage them in maintaining their goal of permanent housing.
- Advocating for changes in current housing policies that put the poor at greater risk for homelessness.

# July 2024 *Please note that this schedule of events is subject to change.*

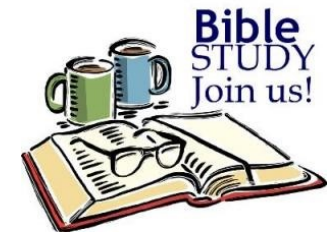
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 FOOD/HEART Noon	4  OFFICE CLOSED	5	6
7 9:30 Worship NOISY OFFERING  10:45 Worship & Music Meeting	8	9	10 FOOD/HEART Noon  Council Outing	11	12	13
14 9:30 Worship	15	16  6:30 Finance	17 FOOD/HEART Noon	18  FOOD BANK	19  NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	20
21 9:30 Worship	22	23	24 FOOD/HEART Noon	25  NEWSLETTER FOLDING	26	27
28 9:30 Worship	29  1:30 & 6:00 Ten Commandment	30	31 FOOD/HEART Noon  6:30 Property			



**Word and Sacrament at 9:30 AM.**

There will be no Sunday Church School during the summer months and will resume September 8 with Rally Recreation Day.

Regular worship schedule will resume **September 8.**



**The Ten Commandments Bible Study will end July 29. Watch for updates on future Bible Studies.**