

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

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12

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GREENSBURG, PA**

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

office@felchurch.org

March 2023



Pastor's Note

Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image,
according to our likeness."

Genesis 1:26a

Dear Friends in Christ,

As I was driving to the church this morning, I was listening to a podcast (*Sermon Brainwave*) discussing the lessons for the first Sunday of Lent. In this discussion a comment was made that stood out to me, "to be human is to bear the image of God in flesh." Of course, I know this, but it came across differently as the group discussed the Gospel text which on the first Sunday of Lent is always the story of Jesus' temptation in the wilderness.

There are a number of things to consider with this story about Jesus temptation and his 40 days in the wilderness provide a good connection to our 40-day journey in Lent. I often think about how this lifts up the humanity and the divinity of Jesus. That Jesus could be tempted at all speaks to his humanity and that his resistance is unwavering speaks to his divinity. There are many other things that could be considered, but this morning I was thinking about our journeys this Lent.

I ended up turning the podcast off shortly after this particular comment was made, because it had captured my thinking. It is a rather common practice to give something up during Lent, a practice of self-denial intended to make space and allow us to strengthen our relationship with God. I wonder though, might our Lenten journeys proceed a little differently if we take time to remember that we are created in the image of God.

In all of creation, humans are the ones created in the God's image. This detail of creation illustrates how valued we are in God's sight. We will, of course, be reminded of that value as we approach Easter and recognize the lengths that God will go to for our salvation.

Blessings to you all as you continue your journey of faith this Lent. As you go about these 40 days and beyond, I invite you to remember that you are valued by God, so much so that you are created in God's image and bear that image to your neighbors.

Peace,
Pastor Chris



Wednesday Evenings in Lent

Worship beginning at 6:00 PM

Please plan to join us on Wednesday evenings for worship.

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 for ELCA Good Gifts to give to families in need at a price of \$105 each.



"But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering and plenteous in mercy and truth."

Psalm 86:15



FIRLU HAS HEARD...

-that as of January 25th, our offering receipts were \$9,066; last year they were \$9,426.

-that **Noah Michael Englehart** has been welcomed into the Communion of Saints through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. We rejoice in the waters of Baptism and God's gift of new life in Christ.

-that Continental Breakfast is available in the Fellowship Hall between services. Grab some coffee, tea, juice, yogurt, or pastries and join us. Our thanks to Sue Boggs who oversees this ministry. If you would like to help, speak to Sue or call the church office.

-that **Noisy Offering** will be collected by the children on March 5. 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.

-that the **JAVA TABLE** will be open in the Fellowship Hall March 12 between worship services.

-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 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 deadline for the April newsletter is Monday, March 20. Please be prompt. You may submit your articles to office@felchurch.org.

See you at worship,
FIRLU

Serving At Worship In March 2023

3/5

3/12

3/19

3/26

ACOLYTES

Aaron Woodley
Benjamin Gustafson

Noah Boggs
Tessa Miller

Molly Boggs
Tyler Miller

Aaron Woodley
Addy Saraceni

LECTORS

Jean Miller
Joan Orr

Kim Nicassio
Malcolm Sias

David von Schlichten
Megan Zobb

Mark Barnhart
Rebecca Brunetta

ASSISTING MINISTERS

Carolyn Hanzel

Mia Saraceni

Pat Yost

Dianna Marusko

8:15 USHERS

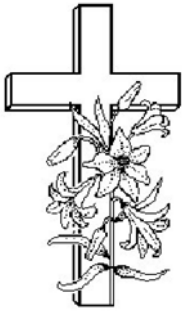
ALTAR GUILD

Bev Attenberger
- coordinator
Linda Griffith



SPRING CLUSTER MEETING via ZOOM 7 PM,
March 24, 2023. Theme: "Our Journey"
ZOOM meeting ID: 842 3347 2024; Passcode:
222194. Call in number: 1-646-876-9923

ORDER LILIES FOR EASTER



Lilies will again decorate our church on Easter Sunday. You are invited to purchase a plant at a cost of \$13.00 and "lend" it to the parish. Plants that are purchased may be removed from the church following the 10:45 AM Easter Sunday Service. Any lilies that are not removed by the Wednesday following Easter will be given to our Food from the Heart guests.

Your purchase may be made "in memory of" or "in honor of" the person(s) of your choosing. Please indicate your preference and return this form with your payment. All orders are due by **Monday, March 27.**

In honor of _____

By _____

and/or

In memory of _____

By _____

Amount enclosed \$ _____



EASTER EGG HUNT

HOLY SATURDAY

April 8, 2023 10:00 AM

All children ages 12 and under are invited to come and hunt for Easter eggs at First Lutheran Church. Friends are invited to join you as well. Please call the church office at 724-834-1457 to register for the hunt.

Please indicate if your child has any food restrictions or allergies.

LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE

Two powerful earthquakes hit Turkey and significantly impacted neighboring Syria. The first was a magnitude 7.8 earthquake in south central Turkey, followed hours later by a magnitude 7.5 quake in the southeastern part of the country. The two quakes have devastated Turkey and Syria, collapsing thousands of buildings and damaging infrastructure. Over 2,000 people have been killed and thousands more have been injured, yet search-and-rescue efforts are only in the early stages. A cold and snowy weather system now moving through the region complicates the response efforts.

[Lutheran Disaster Response and its partners are prepared to accompany our neighbors impacted by these earthquakes. One hundred percent of your gifts to "Middle East Crisis" go to supporting earthquake survivors and other people affected by disasters in the region.](#)

If you would like to help, here's what you can do:

Write out a check payable to First Lutheran Church (or you can give cash). (Note: We will utilize Matching Funds for this response.)

Place it in an envelope and write "**Middle East Crisis**" on the outside of the envelope.

Put the envelope in the offering basket or bring it to the church office.

Your donation will be forwarded to the ELCA's disaster relief office, and 100% of your gift will be used to assist those affected by the earthquakes.

YOU ARE INVITED

LENTEN THURSDAY WORSHIP & LUNCHEON
AT ZION'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

140 S. Pennsylvania Avenue
Greensburg PA 15601

Services begin at 12:05 PM

Lunch is served following the service at 12:30 PM

- March 2 Preaching: The Rev. Robert C. Hawk, retired
Lunch: Ham BBQ, Coleslaw, Chips, Dessert
- March 9 Preaching: The Rev. Roger Steiner—Penn-Zion's & Brush Creek
Lunch: Chicken Casserole, Cranberry Jell-O Salad, Roll, Dessert
- March 16 Preaching: The Rev. Scott Dennis—Peace & St. John Mark
Lunch: Beef Sandwich, Broccoli Salad, Chips, Dessert
- March 23 Preaching: The Rev. Christopher Combs—First Lutheran, Gbg.
Lunch: Ham & Cheese Sliders, Mushroom Soup, Dessert
- March 30 Preaching: The Rev. Peter Norby—St. Luke & Good Shepherd
Lunch: Sloppy Joe Sandwich, Lettuce Salad, Dessert
- April 6 Preaching: The Rev. Brian Chaffee—Zion's, Greensburg
Lunch: Soup and Salad Bar

Suggested Lunch Donation—\$5.00

Worship & Luncheon are not held on days when Greensburg-Salem School district declares a school closing due to snow.

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 250th anniversary! To register, go to 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 6:30 pm 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!



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)

March 2023 *Please note that this schedule of events is subject to change.*



Time to
Spring Ahead

Remember to turn
your clocks ahead
Saturday night,
March 11!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 FOOD/HEART Noon 6:00 PM Worship	2	3	4
5 8:15 W&S 9:30 SCS 10:15 Choir 10:45 W&S Noisy Offering	6	7 6:00 Council	8 FOOD/HEART Noon 6:00 PM Worship 6:30 PM Bells	9 6:30 PM Directory Meeting 7:00 PM Ruth Circle	10	11 Spring Ahead
12 8:15 W&S 9:30 SCS 10:15 Choir 10:45 W&S Java Table Daylight Savings Time Begins	13	14 6:30 Christian Ed/ Youth	15 FOOD/HEART Noon 6:00 PM Worship 6:30 PM Bells	16 FOOD PANTRY	17 	18
19 8:15 W&S 9:30 SCS 10:15 Choir 10:45 W&S	20 APRIL NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	21 6:30 Finance	22 FOOD/HEART Noon 6:00 PM Worship 6:30 PM Bells	23	24 7 PM W/ELCA ZOOM CLUSTER MEETING	25 March for Parks Twin Lakes
26 8:15 W&S 9:30 SCS 10:15 Choir 10:45 W&S	27	28 NEWSLETTER FOLDING 6:00 Executive	29 FOOD/HEART Noon 6:00 PM Worship 6:30 PM Property 6:30 PM Bells	30	31	

RUTH CIRCLE will meet Thursday, March 9 at 7:00 PM in the church parlor. All women of the congregation are invited and welcomed. There will be a short meeting followed by devotions, fellowship and a delicious dessert,