

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 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

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

March 2024



Pastor's Note

For there is no distinction, since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

(Romans 3:22b-24, NRSV)

Dear Friends in Christ,

This month, as I write to you, I must apologize. I made a mistake last month and provided you with some inaccurate information. You might recall that I said something was happening this year that hasn't happened since 1945, that Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day fell on the same day. This is not true. The last time this happened was actually just in 2018. Prior to that it was 1945. This serves as a reminder for me that I need to pay closer attention to the dates that articles were written.

In the grand scheme of things, this may not be that big of a deal. This was a rather minor mistake, and I have certainly made worse mistakes, but it was a mistake regardless. As I thought about this it seemed so appropriate that it would at this time. We were talking about Ash Wednesday and the beginning of lent. A season of the church where we are typically a little more introspective, considering and confessing our sins, and acknowledging our mortality. All of this reminded me of the words from Paul to the Romans.

We all make mistakes, we all sin. We fall short of the glory of God. Left on our own we would be in trouble, but we aren't left on our own. God who loves us, also graciously justifies us. Through the redemption in Christ, God brings us back to a right relationship and reveals to us a new life found only in Christ.

(Continued on Page 2)

(Continued from Page 1)

This is what we experience in Lent as we approach the cross on Good Friday only to find that the tomb is empty on Sunday morning. We acknowledge our brokenness before God and neighbor. At the same time, we keep in mind the truth of Easter, that God takes our brokenness (our mistakes/sins) and restores us to life forever.

I pray that you have a blessed Lenten journey and that you may rejoice in the life-giving truth of Easter.

Together in Christ,
Pastor Chris



**2024 LENTEN
CONGREGATIONAL PROJECT
CAMP LUTHERLYN
“BUILDING for the FUTURE”
CAPTIAL CAMPAIGN**

Since 1948, Lutherlyn has become an influential presence in the lives of youth and adults throughout Western Pennsylvania. Borne from the conviction that youth would benefit from a faith-based leadership camp, Lutherlyn has intentionally expanded to include education opportunities that explore God’s creation. The impact of Lutherlyn lives on in generations of campers, retreaters, summer staff, and the communities of which they are a part.

This \$2.5 million campaign will add 5 new winterized cabins, repair the amphitheater, remove old cabins, improve roads, and add 5 seasonal cabins. The *Building for the Future* capital campaign will provide the funding necessary to retain Lutherlyn’s capacity for year-round programs and increase the number of youths, adults, and congregations served by this ministry for generations to come. More information on Lutherlyn’s Summer Programs can be found on Pages 10 and 11.

FIRLU HAS HEARD...



- that as of January 31st, our offering receipts were \$14,462. Last year they were \$9,066.
- that **Noisy Offering** will be collected the first Sunday of March to benefit Seton Hill Street Outreach organized by Seton Hill School of Physical Therapy .
- that assistance is greatly needed on Thursday, **March 21** at 8:00 AM to unload the truck and sort groceries for Food Bank.
- 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 Tuesday, March 19. Please be prompt. You may submit your articles to office@felchurch.org.
- First Lutheran Sunday School “God’s Work, Our Hands” Project for February was making Valentines treat bags for Food From the Heart recipients.

See you at worship,
FIRLU

LOOKING FOR A WAY TO SERVE AT FIRST?

We are in need of volunteers to serve as lectors, particularly at the 8:15 service. We are also in need of Worship Assistants and members to serve on Altar Guild. Please consider if this is a way you can use your gifts at First. If you have any questions about what is involved, please get in touch with Pastor Chris.

Serving At Worship In March 2024

3/3 3/10 3/17 3/24 3/31

ACOLYTES

Molly Boggs Aaron Woodley Molly Boggs Aaron Woodley Molly Boggs
Benjamin Woodley
Gustafson Tessa Miller Addy Saraceni Corrina Vuick Nicholas Vuick

LECTORS

Dave von Schlichten Dave von Schlichten Dianna Marusko Kim Woodley Kevin Reilly
Tawnya Combs Rebecca Brunetta Jeanne Christensen Bob Errett Shirley Huls

ASSISTING MINISTERS

Carolyn Hanzel Rebecca Brunetta Dianna Marusko Rebecca Brunetta Carolyn Hanzel

ALTAR GUILD

Bev Attenberger
Linda Griffith



HOLY WEEK AT FIRST LUTHERAN

March 24 Palm Sunday 8:15 & 10:45 AM
March 28 Maundy Thursday 6:00 PM
March 29 Good Friday 6:00 PM

March 30 Easter Vigil @ Salem-Delmont Time TBD

March 31 EASTER SUNDAY 8:15 & 10:45 AM
(No Sunday School)



EASTER EGG HUNT
HOLY SATURDAY
March 30, 2024 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.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS BIBLE STUDY SCHEDULE—SPRING 2024

Two sessions each day at 1:30 & 6:00 PM.

March 18, 2024 (note: March 25 is Holy Week)

April 29, 2024
May 20, 2024





BIBLES FOR LOVE PACKAGES

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.

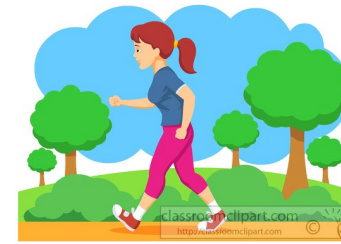
Books – all Christian books – adult or children, non-fiction.

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.

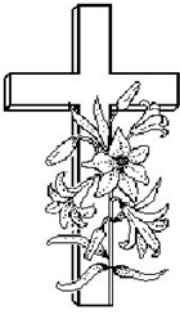


JOIN OUR MARCH FOR PARKS TEAM!

We are organizing a First Lutheran TEAM to participate in the MARCH FOR PARKS on Saturday, March 23. The event will take place at Twin Lakes Park in Greensburg, where it all began 22 years ago. The March for Parks raises funds for the County Parks and Trails. There will be a pig roast and BBQ sandwiches, raffles, live entertainment, family friendly activities, and a "march" around Twin Lakes Park. 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), dredge Mammoth Park Lake, 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 23! 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!

ORDER LILIES FOR EASTER

Lilies will again decorate our church on Easter Sunday. You are invited to purchase a plant at a cost of \$14.00 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 25.**

In honor of _____

By _____

and/or

In memory of _____

By _____

Amount enclosed \$ _____

BIBLES FOR LOVE PACKAGES continued

Items not accepted:

- VHS/Tapes/Records/8-tracks
- Guideposts
- Handiwork or busy papers from Sunday School materials
- Secular books (other than dictionaries)
- Missions magazines

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*.

NOISY OFFERING FOR MARCH

For March and April’s Noisy Offering, we will be collecting for Street Outreach organized by Seton Hill University’s School of Physical Therapy. The group hopes to meet the needs of and provide medical care to individuals who are unhoused or experiencing rough sleeping. Currently they only consist of physical therapists and other non-clinicians, but as they assess the needs of the community, they plan to reach out to other medical providers to ask them to participate as well. They are modeling themselves after Street Medicine which was founded in Pittsburgh over 30 years ago. It is now an international community of providers but its roots started in Western PA and we would like to expand the outreach in our region beyond Pittsburgh. If you are interested in learning more about Street Medicine, you can check out their website: <https://www.streetmedicine.org/> .

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS TO STEWARD YOUR LIFE

Have any resolutions for 2024? (It's not too late to make them!) New Year's resolutions are a great way to boost the stewardship of your life. After all, resolutions are just goals for enriching our lives.

Here are some areas to consider:

Spirituality: Grow in faith by engaging spiritual practices. Resolve to pray and read scripture daily, attend worship, give generously, cultivate spiritual relationships, serve church and community.

Health: Gain vitality by resolving to lose weight, eat healthfully, exercise regularly, learn about health and nutrition and get checkups at your doctor and dentist.

Intellect: Keep your mind active by resolving to read books, check out educational programs and podcasts, take a class to learn a new language or skill.

Relationships: Resolve to make new friendships and deepen existing ones. Work on family relationships to strengthen bonds and bring people closer to you and other family members.

Leisure: Include resolutions to help you enjoy life! Vacations, hobbies, activities, getaways, day trips.

Financial: Get your financial house in order. Resolve to make and keep a budget, reduce debt, increase income, save more and become more learned in money matters.

We are stewards of the life that God has given us. For 2024, pray for God's guidance and make a few resolutions that address your priority issues. And pray for God's help in keeping them. Blessings for 2024!

Lutherlyn's 2024 Summer Camp Schedule

| | | |
|------------------------------------|--|---|
| Week 1 June 16-21 | -Staff-In-Training (SH) -Life in the Wild (JH) -Adventurers (JH & SH) | -Classic (Jr) (SH) -Horse Camp (JH & SH) -Confirmation Camp |
| Week 2 June 23-28 | -Classic (Jr) (JH) -Horse Camp (Jr) -Small Fry Days (Th & Fri) -Confirmation Camp | -Adventurers (JH & SH) -Young Folks (Sun-Wed) -Grown Up & Me (Th & Fri) |
| Week 3 June 30 - July 5 | -Family Camp -On-Site Day Camp (1st-5th grade) | |
| Week 4 July 7-12 | -Arts & Musical (Jr & JH) -Classic (Jr) (JH) (SH) -Life in the Wild (Jr) | -Horse Camp (Jr) -Adventurers (JH & SH) |
| Week 5 July 14-19 | -Classic (Jr) (JH) (SH) -Adventurers PLUS (SH) -Small Fry Days (Th & Fri) | -Horse Camp (JH & SH) -Young Folks (Sun-Wed) -Grown Up & Me (Th & Fri) |
| Week 6 July 21-26 | -Classic (Jr) (JH) -Horse Camp (Jr) -Junior Adventurers (Jr) | -Venture (SH) -Rocketry (JH & SH) |
| Week 7 July 28– August 2 | -Classic (Jr) (JH) -Rocketry (Jr) -Horse Camp (JH & SH) | -Night Owls (JH & SH) -Adventurers (JH & SH) |

"Young Folks" - campers enter grades 2-3, "Jr" - campers enter grades 4-6,
 "JH" - campers enter grades 7-9, "SH" - campers enter grades 10-12 or 2024 graduate

Registration for 2024 starts on February 1.
Camperships are available for all who need assistance.
Visit www.lutherlyn.com/summer for details.



You Are Invited to CampBlast!

Saturday, May 11, 2024, 11:00 am - 4:30 pm

FREE! RAIN OR SHINE!

Join us for a day of FUN that highlights
all that Lutherlyn has to offer.

Campfire, crafts, gaga ball, archery, pony rides, zipline,
bouldering room, hikes, nature activities, hay rides, games,
sports, archaeology, disc golf, jump pillow, tours, great
food, worship, and MORE! **The best part.... EVERYTHING IS FREE!**
www.lutherlyn.com/campblast

\$100 off for FIRST-TIME campers!

This coupon entitles FIRST-TIME Lutherlyn Campers to \$100 off of the
registration fee for Summer 2024. This applies to Lutherlyn's residential week-
long programs. Young folks half-week programs get \$50 off for FIRST-TIME
campers. Does not apply to Family Camp, Confirmation Camp, Day Camps, or
Small Fry Days. Must be a FIRST-TIME summer camper.

No additional discounts may be combined with this offer.

Enter coupon code: FIRST Register at WWW.LUTHERLYN.COM

(Please share this code with friends!)

Summer is just around the corner—time to start planning for summer camp!
Visit www.lutherlyn.com/summer.

Week long summer Camps run from June 16 through August 2, 2024.

First Lutheran offers Camperships are available to help defray the cost.
Register with Lutherlyn, then let the office know to send the campership.



RUTH CIRCLE will meet Thursday, March 14th at
7:00 PM in the church parlor. All women of the
congregation are invited to join us for a
brief business meeting, an interesting program,
fellowship, and our always delicious dessert.

SWPA VIRTUAL CLUSTER 4 MEETING ("Let's Go Fishing")
9:30 AM Saturday, March 2, 2024. ZOOM meeting ID: 853
4095 3317. Passcode: 878752. Call in #: 1-646-876-9923

*"God is our refuge and strength, a
very present help in trouble."*

Psalms 46:1

A 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.

March 2024

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

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|---|--|--|---|---|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 8:15 Worship 9:30 SCS 10:00 Choir 10:45 Worship NOISY Offering Lent 3 | 4 | 5 6:00 Executive | 6 FOOD/HEART Noon 6:00 Vespers 6:30 Handbells | 7 | 8 | 9 Spring Ahead |
| 10 8:15 Worship 9:30 SCS 10:00 Choir 10:45 Worship JAVA Table Lent 4 | 11 | 12 6:00 Council | 13 FOOD/HEART Noon 6:00 Vespers 6:30 Handbells 7:00 Ruth Circle | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 8:15 Worship 9:30 SCS 10:00 Choir 10:45 Worship Lent 5 | 18 1:30 & 6:00 Ten Commandments | 19 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 6:30 Finance | 20 FOOD/HEART Noon 6:00 Vespers 6:30 Handbells | 21 FOOD BANK | 22 | 23 March for Parks |
| 24 8:15 Worship 9:30 SCS 10:00 Choir 10:45 Worship Palm Sunday | 25 | 26 NEWSLETTER FOLDING 6:30 Ch. Ed./Youth | 27 FOOD/HEART Noon 6:30 PM Property | 28 6:00 PM Maundy Thursday Service | 29  6:00 PM Good Friday Service | 30 Easter Egg Hunt 10 AM Easter Vigil @ Salem-Delmont Time TBD |
| 31 8:15 Worship 10:00 Choir 10:45 Worship Easter | | | | | | |

**No continental
breakfast on
March 31st.**



Time to
Spring Ahead

**Remember to turn
your clocks ahead
Saturday night,
March 9!**



Sunday Church School will
NOT meet March 31.
Classes will enthusiastically
resume on April 7.