

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.....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

**FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
 GREENSBURG, PA**



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

office@felchurch.org

March 2026

Pastor's Note

Give ear, O heavens, and I will speak; let the earth hear the words of my mouth. May my teaching drop like the rain, my speech condense like the dew; like gentle rain on grass, like showers on new growth. For I will proclaim the name of the Lord; ascribe greatness to our God!

Deuteronomy 32:1-3 (NRSV)

Dear Friends in Christ,

I am thinking about Spring. Don't get me wrong, I appreciate all the seasons, but I am ready for spring this year. In March we "spring forward" and we celebrate the first day of spring. This new season typically brings rain, which brings new life.

While I am looking forward to spring, I recognize that when you read this we will only be a little over a week into Lent. The term "Lent" originally comes from the Anglo-Saxon word "lencten" which means "spring." Lent is a time of renewal and growth in our faith as we focus on God.

These two ideas of spring reminded me of Moses' Song in Deuteronomy. Teachings like drops of rain which bring growth and new life. Moses' teachings point us to the Lord and help us grow. Similarly, we find teachings throughout scripture and in the lives of the Saints who have gone before us, which are like drops of rain in our lives, helping our faith to grow.

(Continued on Page 2)

Continued from Page 1

Pastor's Note

As we move into March, may the literal drops of Spring rain remind you of the wisdom that drops like rain on us throughout Lent and all of our lives which help our faith grow. May the hope and joy of spring strengthen you in your Lenten journey with Christ.

Together in Christ,
Pastor Chris

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.

Attention Parents!

We are getting ready for First Communion. If your child is in 2nd grade or beyond and you think they are ready for their First Communion, we will be having First Communion class on March 14th at 9:00am. We will meet in the Sanctuary as we prepare for First Communion on Maundy Thursday, April 2nd at 6:00pm. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Chris.



FIRLU HAS HEARD...

-that as of January 30th, our general offering receipts were \$11,885. Last year they were \$12,314.

-that **Noisy Offering** will be collected the first Sunday of March to benefit Camp Agape.

-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, March 8.

-that Food Bank distribution is **Thursday, March 19**. 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 **April newsletter is Monday, March 16**. Please be prompt. You may submit your articles to office@felchurch.org.

See you at worship,
FIRLU

Financial Update Through January 2026		
Giving		
2026	2025	Budget
\$ 14,924	\$ 16,812	\$ 21,334
Expense		
2026	2025	Budget
\$ 22,336	\$ 36,066	\$ 39,916

Serving At Worship In March 2026

	3/1	3/8	3/15	3/22	3/29
8:15 Acolyte	Rachel Boggs	Colton Boggs	Nathaniel Boggs	Molly Boggs	Rachel Boggs
10:45 Acolyte	Owen Lenhart		ONE SERVICE at 9:30		Owen Lenhart
8:15 Lector	Kim Woodley	Bill Pfeifer	Kim Woodley	Sue Boggs	Passion Reading
10:45 Lector	Bob Errett	Jean Miller	ONE SERVICE at 9:30	Bob Errett	Passion Reading
8:15 Worship Assistant	Kim Woodley		Rebecca Brunetta		Kim Woodley
10:45 Worship Assistant	Dianna Marusko	Tawnya Combs	ONE SERVICE at 9:30	Dianna Marusko	Tawnya Combs



For March includes Kim Woodley and Linda Griffith.

“... if we are faithless, he remains faithful, he can not deny himself.”

2 Timothy 2:13



2026 LENTEN

CONGREGATIONAL PROJECT

Ash Wednesday was February 18 and now our thoughts turn to God and....our Lenten Project! A collection of clean, gently used clothing will occur from the 18th of February through Easter Sunday, to again be donated to the Community Clothes Closet at the Free Methodist Church in Greensburg. Clothing can be dropped off on or beneath the table on the bathroom side of the Fellowship Hall.

The Community Clothes Closet plays an important role in providing clothing to the county's children who have been displaced from their homes, often suddenly. This is where the Closet's greatest need lies. To assist with that need, a monetary collection will occur at the same time. If you find your closets are bare of unwanted clothing, consider a donation to help these children. Donations can be made via the yellow envelopes in the pews, with the designation Community Clothes Closet.



To stock FOOD FROM the HEART (FFTH) cupboards we are asking for donations in the upcoming months:

- March** spaghetti sauce, diced tomatoes or pasta
- April** chicken broth, beef broth or creamed soups
- May** canned fruits, canned vegetables or apple sauce

MARCH NOISY OFFERING is FOR CAMP AGAPE



Camp Agape is an outdoor ministry of the Lutheran Church, providing summer camping programs and retreat facilities. Located in southwestern Pennsylvania approximately 35 miles southwest of Pittsburgh, Camp Agape has over 250 acres of rolling hills, fields and forest. The natural setting allows you to enjoy the beauty and wonder of God's creation while experiencing an intentional Christian community.

A place where God's children from 5 to 95 come to learn about themselves, the world in which we live, and our God who created and creates all; a place where children come to explore and experience talents they don't know they have, skills they start to develop, confidence they gain to face the world to which they return, affirmation they receive that God loves them as they are and encourages them to grow into what they can become.

Admission is on a first-come, first-served basis, and provided regardless of race, sex, color, religious affiliation (you don't have to be Lutheran to attend Agape), national origin, or handicap condition.

Contact: PO Box 115; 72 Agape Road; Hickory, PA 15340

JANUARY PERFECT ATTENDANCE



Kacie Colonna

Camden Kenderdine

Kinsley Colonna

SWPA LDR – UPCOMING MISSION TRIPS

Youth – Save the Date – plans are being made for a trip to Johnstown, PA on July 5-8. This trip will end with a celebration with a group of youth coming from the Nebraska Synod to work in the Pittsburgh area. Registrations need to be completed by May 1, but are not open yet.

If you are interested in this trip, please reach out to Pr. Chris for additional information.

save the date

Synod Youth Mission Trip to Johnstown, PA July 5-8, 2026
 Cost is \$150 per youth
 Celebration Dinner with Nebraska Synod Youth! Registration Deadline: May 1

Open to youth who have completed grades 6-12. Rising juniors and seniors in high school are able to apply to become Disciple Leaders who will be responsible for leading teams over the trip! Information to come soon.

Stay tuned for more information!

SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD

PIPES, PEALS, PIANO & PIZZA You are invited to enjoy music and pizza Sunday, March 22 at 4:00 PM. Performing will be Grammy nominated Jazz Pianist Josh Beck; the FELC Handbell choir; Marc Toure, baritone; Marvin Huls, organ. A pizza reception will be held in the Fellowship Hall following the one-hour concert. The event is free and open to the public.



JOIN OUR MARCH FOR PARKS TEAM!

We are organizing a First Lutheran TEAM to participate in the MARCH FOR PARKS on Saturday, March 28. The event will take place at Twin Lakes Park in Greensburg at the Activity Center. The March for Parks has raised funds for the County Parks and Trails for the past 24 years. There will be a pig roast and BBQ sandwiches, raffles, live entertainment, family friendly activities, and a “march” around Twin Lakes Park. Make a \$30 donation online and receive an official March for Parks t-shirt at a discount (price increase for day-of registration). Kids can make a \$15 donation and receive a cool prize (price increase for day-of registration). Visit www.WestmorelandCountyPA.gov/MFP to donate using PayPal. Don’t wait – donate early! Or, arrive at Twin Lakes Park at 10:00 a.m. on March 28 and turn in your donations for the “First Lutheran” team.

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. Funds raised at the March for Parks go directly to projects in our parks and trails, without spending tax dollars. Your donations go right back into our facilities that you use every day. Please join us on March 28! 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 \$15.00 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 23.**

In honor of _____

By _____

and/or

In memory of _____

By _____

Amount enclosed \$ _____

Stewardship: All Things Great and Small

Lenten practice

Someone once asked Pablo Casals, who was in his 80s and arguably the best cellist in the world at the time, “So why do you keep practicing for hours and hours every day?” He answered, “Because I think I’m making progress.”

Now there’s a grand reason for us to practice serving one another with love during Lent. Lent is a journey with Jesus. It’s an opportunity to learn from Christ’s human path to the cross, in the company of saints and sinners.

Walking with Jesus, we can get better at this “serve one another” business, can’t we?

“Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude” (1 Corinthians 13:4-5). These biblical words ring in my ears accusingly. But then I remember that I’m not alone in this. I’m walking with Jesus. “Watch and learn,” the Spirit says to me, kindly.

The Holy Spirit breathes in us. With practice, we are getting better at walking with Jesus. This Lent, we watch, listen and learn to serve better, with love.

This message is excerpted from “To serve with love” by Christa Von Zychlin in the March 2020 Gather magazine and reprinted from Daily Grace., a daily devotional prepared by Women of the ELCA. Used with permission. Learn more about Daily Grace at welca.org/dailygrace.

RECYCLING CHALLENGE

CHRISTIAN OUTREACH is participating in the **NexTrex Recycling Challenge**. Before October 1, 2026, we hope to collect 1000 pounds of plastic bags. This plastic will be recycled into decking boards and First can earn a park bench made of these boards. There are collection bins located in the Fellowship Hall, Education Building and the Narthex for you to deposit **your clean, dry and free of food residue plastic bags**. Since October, 2025, 301 pounds of plastic have been deposited and taken to Westmoreland Cleanways for recycling.

Examples of what can be recycled:



DO NOT INCLUDE:

Frozen food bags, candy wrappers, chip bags, net or mesh bags, mulch or soil bags, degradable/compostable bags/film, pre-washed salad mix bags, pet food bags, hot dog or meat wrap packaging, six-pack rings, PPE gloves, masks or protective wear, pool covers, lamination film, silage and hay bags, vinyl shower curtains or table cloths, bedding or linen packaging, shiny, crinkly film like floral wrap or backyard ice rinks.

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

The Educational Society of Westmoreland County awards scholarships to Lutheran students in Westmoreland County who will be attending a Lutheran affiliated college or seminary (can be a Lutheran College out of state).

The applicant must:

1. Be a member in good standing in a Lutheran Church within the boundary of Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, and said church must be affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).
2. Be attending or planning to attend an educational institution that is affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).
3. Be a citizen of the United States of America.
4. Be a resident of Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania.

Scholarship applications can be obtained by contacting Teresa Graziotto (grazebear@gmail.com or 724-331-7134). Paper applications and/or a google form application are available. Scholarship application due date is March 31, 2026.

JANUARY CHRISTIAN OUTREACH UPDATE

25 bags of emergency food distributed

5 health/personal care kits distributed

206 FFTH lunches served

50 Households served through Food Bank



Registration for Summer Camp 2026 has begun. Please visit www.lutherlyn.com for dates, prices, details, and registration.

First time campers get \$100 off with coupon code "FIRST".

Visit lutherlyn.com/first for details.

For additional information, contact the camp office at 724-865-2161 or registrar@lutherlyn.com.

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



Wednesday, March 11 at 7 pm

Ruth Circle will meet on WEDNESDAY MARCH 11 at 7:00 in the church parlor. We invite all women of the congregation to join us for an evening of fellowship and always delicious dessert. **PLEASE NOTE THE DATE AND TIME CHANGE.**

MARCH 2026 *Please note that this schedule of events is subject to change.*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:15 Worship 9:30 SCS 10:45 Worship NOISY OFFERING	2	3 6:00 Executive	4 FOOD/HEART Noon 6 PM Lenten Worship 6:30 Handbells	5	6	7 
8 8:15 Worship 9:30 SCS 10:00 Choir 10:45 Worship JAVA TABLE	9	10 6:00 Council	11 FOOD/HEART Noon 6 PM Lenten Worship 6:30 Handbells 7:00 Ruth Circle	12	13	14 First Communion Class 9am
15 9:30 Worship Congregation Meeting after Worship	16 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE Bible Study 1:30 & 6:00	17 6:30 Finance	18 FOOD/HEART Noon 6 PM Lenten Worship 6:30 Handbells 6:30 Christian Outreach	19 FOOD BANK	20	21
22 8:15 Worship 9:30 SCS 10:00 Choir 10:45 Worship 4 PM Pipes, Peals, Piano & Pizza	23	24 6:30 Ch. Ed. Youth	25 FOOD/HEART Noon 6 PM Lenten Worship 6:30 Handbells 6:30 Property	26 NEWSLETTER FOLDING	27	28 MARCH for PARKS
29 PALM SUNDAY 8:15 Worship 9:30 SCS 10:45 Worship	30	31				

Remember to
 turn your
 clocks ahead
 Saturday night,
 March 7!



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
 Thursdays,
 February 19 through April 2
 Suggested Lunch Donation—\$5.00
 Worship & Luncheon are not held on
 days when Greensburg-Salem School
 district declares a school closing due
 to snow.