

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..... 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

FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
 246 SOUTH MAIN STREET  
 GREENSBURG, PA 15601-3183  
 RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
 US POSTAGE PAID  
 GREENSBURG, PA 15601  
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**FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
 GREENSBURG, PA**

PHONE 724-834-1457  
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office@felchurch.org

**May 2023**



Pastor's Note

Dear Friends in Christ,

Last month I wrote you anticipating that you would receive the message just as Holy Week was beginning. At that time, I had no idea that I would not be able to be at worship here at First on Easter Sunday morning. As Marvin shared with you on Easter, that is not at all what I wanted on Easter.

As you might imagine, I have taken some time to reflect on this situation that we found ourselves in this Easter. While some of my thoughts went to the sadness and disappointment that I felt by not being able to be here and celebrate with you in-person, that was overshadowed by the feeling of gratitude.

I am thankful for the grace and thoughtfulness of our leadership here at First who came together less than 24 hours before Easter worship and considered what should happen. I am thankful for the preparedness of the Synod and their support which allowed Pr. Stoller to proclaim the Good News. I am thankful for the care and concern shown to me and my family from you through texts, e-mails, and phone calls, checking to see how we were doing and, of course, the prayers you lifted up for us.

Somewhere in my thoughts of gratitude for your care and concern, a hymn entered into my thoughts. It is *Give Thanks*, written by Henry Smith and can be found in *This Far by Faith*. This hymn has been playing on repeat in my head for a few days now. It goes like this:

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One, give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ his Son.

And now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am rich," because of what the Lord has done for us.

May we all give thanks for the care and support that we show each other and give thanks, "because of what the Lord has done for us." I give thanks that Easter is more than a day. It is, of course, an event in time, but the resurrection changes everything forever. God's love revealed to us in the life, death, and resurrection of Christ brings us to life and empowers us to care for God and neighbor. May the blessings of Easter enliven you each and every day!

Peace, Pastor Chris



## HONOR MOTHER'S...SAVE OTHERS!

Once again for Mother's Day (May 14th) members of the Christian Outreach Team suggest a fitting way to honor and remember your/any mother.

Around our planet, our brothers and sisters may not know of America's Mothers Day but mothers they know may very well be experiencing war, hunger, poverty, calamities of weather or any combination of these.

Honor your mother(s) with a gift to Lutheran Disaster Relief in amounts of \$15.00 or more if you can. Lutheran Disaster Relief has a long established track record for helping where it is needed most.

A member of the Christian Outreach Team will be in the education building foyer between worship services on Sunday, May 7th and 14th for you to make your gifts. You may also make gifts during the week through the church office.

Write out a check payable to First Lutheran Church (or you can give cash). You can write **Mother's Day** on the memo line and place it in an envelope and write **Mother's Day** on the outside of the envelope.

Please include the following information:

Name(s) of mother(s) you are honoring/remembering:

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Given by:-----



## FIRLU HAS HEARD...

-that as of March 25th, our offering receipts were \$44,809 last year they were \$33,960.

--that **Ruth Circle** will meet May 4.

-that **Continental Breakfast** is available in the Fellowship Hall between services through May 21. 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 May 7 to benefit Blessed Bundles. 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 May 14 between worship services.

-that assistance is greatly needed on Thursday, May 18 at 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 June newsletter is Monday, May 15. 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 May 2023

5/7                      5/14                      5/21                      5/28

## ACOLYTES

Aaron Woodley	Noah Boggs	Molly Boggs	Aaron Woodley
Bradley Schmidt	Corrina Vuick	Nicholas Vuick	Benjamin Gustafson

## LECTORS

Mark Barnhart	Sue Boggs	Sherry Menz	Jean Miller
Dianna Marusko	Joan Orr	Malcolm Sias	Megan Zobb

## ASSISTING MINISTERS

Rebecca Brunetta	Dianna Marusko	Mia Saraceni	Carolyn Hanzel
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## ALTAR GUILD

Kim Woodley  
Ann Copper



*"Know therefore that the Lord thy God, he is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations."*

*Deuteronomy 7:9*

# SUMMER FOOD DRIVE

During the summer months, the Social Ministry Activation Team will be collecting nonperishable items for our Emergency Food Cupboard. These items will be used to assist many individuals and families in our community.

June is "Protein Month". Suggested items are:  
Peanut Butter  
Canned meats (tuna, chicken, etc.)  
Beans



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!**

FIRST LUTHERAN AND ZION'S LUTHERAN VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

"Happy Camper"

June 19-22 9 AM - 12PM

PreK - 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

Held at First Lutheran Church

246 South Main Street, Greensburg, PA 15601

REGISTRATION AND EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Male \_\_\_\_\_ Female \_\_\_\_\_

Last School Grade Completed \_\_\_\_\_ Child's Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone \_\_\_\_\_ Parent/Guardian cell \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian email address \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary Emergency Contact:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to child \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Any known food allergies \_\_\_\_\_

Any other allergies or medical conditions \_\_\_\_\_

Any current medications \_\_\_\_\_

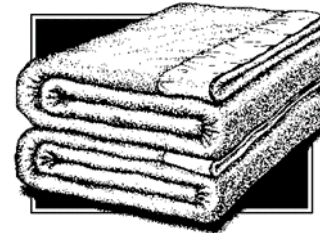
Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

By initialing below, you are allowing First Lutheran and Zion's Lutheran Churches to take photos of your child or loved one. These photos may be included on our church websites and/or social media.

Guardian Initials \_\_\_\_\_

# Volunteers Needed

The Youth Committee needs volunteers to make tie blankets for our high school seniors.



**Sunday May 21<sup>st</sup>**

**After 10:45 AM Service**

**Light Lunch will be provided**

**Please sign up so we know how much food to order.**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

**FROM THE ORGAN BENCH (Marvin Hulst)**

Words of Mother Teresa: Let no one ever come to you without leaving better and happier. Be the living expression of God's kindness. Kindness in your face, kindness in your eyes, kindness in your smile.

And from the writings of Henry James: There are three ways to success: The first is to be kind. The second way is to be kind. The third way is to be kind.



So many of our Women of the ELCA ministries occur in small groups, often referred to as circles.

I saw this “circle story” on Facebook: A young mother and toddler were in an airport, waiting to board a flight. The child was having a meltdown. The mom, pregnant and traveling alone with the toddler, sat down on the floor and cried, her toddler lying beside her, kicking and screaming. Six or seven women – strangers to the woman and each other – slowly came and sat down beside the woman and child, forming a circle around them. One sang a calming song to the child. One offered water, another offered an orange and yet another offered the child a little toy. Mom and child soon calmed down and they were able to board their plane. My favorite line from the Facebook post, written by one of the women in the circle was: “It occurred to me that a circle of women, with a mission, can save the world.” You know that to be true, don’t you?

*This message is excerpted from “Holy circles” by Linda Post Bushkofsky in the June 2018 [Gather](#) magazine.*

**RUTH CIRCLE** will have its last meeting of the year Thursday, May 4th at 7:00 PM in the church parlor. We will be planning our service project for next year, having a program and enjoying dessert and fellowship. All women of the congregation are most welcome. There will be a short meeting followed by devotions, dessert, and fellowship.



**SUMMER** is just around the corner—time to start planning for summer camp! Visit [www.lutherlyn.com/summercamp](http://www.lutherlyn.com/summercamp).

**CAMP BLAST** is Saturday, May 13th, 11 AM—4:30 PM where you can sample all that Lutherlyn has to offer **FREE OF CHARGE**.

Week long summer Camps run from June 18 through August 4, 2023 for grades 4—6, 7—9 and 10—12. There are also **Small Fry Days** for grades 1—3 where children may attend one or multiple days.

Lutherlyn offers a \$100 coupon for first time Lutherlyn campers to help cover the cost of camp. Stop in the church office for a coupon before registering. Enter coupon code: **FIRST** when registering.

**First Lutheran offers Camperships.** Register with Lutherlyn, then let the office know the title and dates of the camp and a Campership will be sent to Lutherlyn.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Lutherlyn is in need of a number of staff for the summer. If you are interested, please check Lutherlyn’s website or talk with Pastor Chris.

#### **FROM THE ORGAN BENCH (Marvin Huls)**

What I Learned From My Mother (Julia Kandorf) I learned from my mother how to love the living, to have plenty of vases in case you have to rush to the hospital with peonies cut from the lawn, black ants still stuck to the buds. I learned to save jars big enough to hold fruit salad for a grieving family, to cube home canned pears and peaches, to slice through maroon grape skins and flick out seeds with a knife point. I learned to attend viewings even if I didn’t know the deceased very well, to press the moist hands of the living, to look in their eyes and offer sympathy as though I understood loss. I learned that whatever we say means little, what anyone will remember is that we came. I learned to believe I had the power to ease awful pains materially like an angel. Like a doctor, I learned to create from another’s suffering my own usefulness, and once you know how to do this, you can never refuse. To every house you must enter, you must offer healing: a chocolate cake you baked, the blessing of your voice, your chaste touch.



# May 2023

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




## SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE BEGINS JUNE 4

Beginning June 4, the “Summer Worship Schedule” will begin, with worship at 8:15 and 10:00 AM.

There will be no Sunday Church School during the summer months. SCS will conclude the school year on Sunday, May 21, and resume September 10 with Rally Recreation Day.

Regular worship schedule will resume **September 10**.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 6:00 Council	3 FOOD/HEART Noon 6:30 Fellowship	4 6:15 Bells 7:00 Ruth Circle	5	6
7 8:15 W&S 10:15 Choir 10:45 W&S Noisy Offering	8	9 6:30 Ch Ed/Youth	10 FOOD/HEART Noon	11	12	13
14 8:15 W&S 9:30 SCS 10:15 Choir 10:45 W&S Java Table Mother's Day	15 JUNE NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	16 6:30 Finance	17 FOOD/HEART Noon	18 FOOD PANTRY	19	20
21 8:15 W&S 9:30 SCS 10:45 W&S	22	23 Church Office Closed	24 FOOD/HEART Noon Church Office Closed	25	26	27
28 8:15 W&S 10:45 W&S	29  Memorial Day Church Office Closed	30 NEWSLETTER FOLDING 6:00 Executive	31 FOOD/HEART Noon 6:30 PM Property			