

FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
 246 South Main Street
 Greensburg, Pennsylvania 15601-3183
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 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

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 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
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**FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
 GREENSBURG, PA**



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

office@felchurch.org

May 2026

Pastor's Note

“Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here but has risen. ⁶ Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, ⁷ that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinner, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.”

Luke 24:5b-7 (NRSV)

Dear Friends in Christ,

A couple of weeks ago now, I said in my sermon, “Christ is still risen!” As I have been thinking about this article for May, I have thought about all the things of Spring and all the events that take place in May, and I thought, but it is still Easter.

Much of the world has moved on from the Holiday of Easter, especially the commercial world, but we are an Easter people, and we are in the midst of the Easter season. We celebrate the resurrection every Sunday, but during this season of Easter we dwell with the news that Christ is Risen. We recall the stories of Christ’s appearances and are invited to consider where and how Christ comes to us.

Dwelling in this Good News we find that it changes everything. The reality of the Resurrection changed things on that first Easter morning. Because of that day, when Christ rose, we have life, today and forever.

(Continued on Page 2)

(Continued from Page 1)

I came across a song which frames, I think, this life we have. It is, *Every Morning is Easter Morning*, by Richard Avery and Donald Marsh. In part it says,

Goodbye guilt, goodbye fear, good riddance!

Hello Lord, Hello sun!

I am one of the Easter People! My new life has begun!

Every morning is Easter morning from now on!

Every day's resurrection day, the past is over and gone!

The Good News of Easter continues. The past is over, the power of sin and death is no more. Like those first witnesses of the resurrection, we need not look for life among the dead, we know that Christ is life. As Easter people we can say goodbye to guilt and fear and live right now in Christ.

What a blessing it is to dwell in the season of Easter and may you proclaim everyday that you are one of the Easter People.

Together in Christ,
Pastor Chris

MARCH PERFECT ATTENDANCE



Pre School

Kacie Colonna



FIRLU HAS HEARD...

-that as of March 30th, our general offering receipts were \$45,976. Last year they were \$46,189.

-that **Noisy Offering** will be collected the first Sunday of May to benefit St. Vladimir's for Ukraine.

-that together we are making great strides in keeping harmful plastic out of our landfills!! Thank you to all who bring in their plastic, those who sort the plastic and compact it, and those who deliver the plastic to Westmoreland Cleanways.

-that there have been some busy bees working around the church putting up a new mailbox, doing some painting in the education building, fixing some broken downspouts, among other things needed. To those busy bees who volunteer their time and talents, FIRLU gives a great big THANKS. We are grateful!

-that there is interest in some church trivia and we need your help. Do you know some interesting facts about First? Please e-mail your trivia questions (and answers) to the office. Then look for those questions in upcoming editions.

-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, May 10.

-that Food Bank distribution is **Thursday, May 21**. 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.

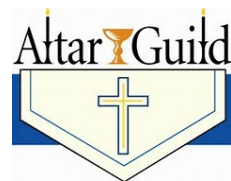
-that the deadline for the **June newsletter is Monday, May 18**. Please be prompt. You may submit your articles to office@felchurch.org.

Have ideas for other newsletter items? We would love to hear those too. Please send into the office.

See you at worship, FIRLU

Serving At Worship In May 2026

	5/3	5/10	5/17	5/24	5/31
8:15 Acolyte	Nathaniel Boggs	Colton Boggs	Molly & Levi Boggs	Rachel Boggs	Levi Boggs
10:45 Acolyte		Owen Lenhart	Owen Lenhart		Robbie Jefferson
8:15 Lector	Sue Boggs	Kevin Reilly	Liz Rowe	Kim Woodley	Bill Pfeifer
10:45 Lector	Jean Miller	Jeanne Christensen	Bob Errett	Sunshine Keiser	Dan Krack
8:15 Worship Assistant		Kim Woodley		Kim Woodley	
10:45 Worship Assistant	Tawnya Combs	Dianna Marusko	Rebecca Brunetta	Tawnya Combs	Dianna Marusko



For May includes Kim Woodley and Ann Copper.



To stock **FOOD FROM the HEART (FFTH)** cupboards, we are asking for donations in **May** of canned fruits, canned vegetables or apple sauce.

Thank you for keeping this program going.



THANKS to your generosity, our congregation collected forty bags of clothing and \$615.00 for this year's Lenten Project.

Your donations will greatly help the Community Clothes Closet at the Free Methodist Church to provide clothing and supplies to those in need in our own community.

MARCH CHRISTIAN OUTREACH UPDATE

16 bags of emergency food distributed

6 health/personal care kits distributed

294 FFTH lunches served

52 Households served through Food Bank

**MAY NOISY OFFERING is for
ST. VLADIMIR'S FOR UKRAINE**

The Youth Group Project of St. Vladimir Ukrainian Catholic Church, Arnold, PA will benefit Emmanuel Youth Group of the Blessed Martyr Josaphat Kolsylovsky in Stryi, Ukraine.

The Ukrainian city, Stryi, population 59,000 is located in the foothills of the Carpathian Mountains. This has become a destination for mostly women and children fleeing the war-torn areas of their country.

The Youth Group of St. Vladimir in Arnold is raising funds for the Blessed Martyr Youth Group in Stryi. The Youth in Ukraine will use the funds to give humanitarian aid to these refugees. The youth have helped with things like distribution of food, clothing, haircuts, a candle making class, and are planning a day camp for the refugee children this summer. The Blessed Martyr Youth are also helping to minister to people who have lost family members and children orphaned by the war.

Financial Update Through March 2026		
Giving		
2026	2025	Budget
\$ 52,582	\$ 53,989	\$ 64,001
Expense		
2026	2025	Budget
\$ 88,251	\$ 99,019	\$ 119,749

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.

We have also seen an increased need for personal care items. Anything you are able to provide is greatly appreciated!

June is "Protein Month": Suggested items are:

- Peanut Butter
- Canned meats (tuna, chicken, etc.)
- Beans



June Personal Care: toilet paper (wrapped single roll or small 4-pack), Kleenex, paper towels (single roll)

July is "Carb Month": Suggested items are:

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

July Personal Care: Shampoo, Body Wash or Bar Soap, Deodorant

August is "Canned Food Month": Items especially needed are:

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

August Personal Care: Toothpaste, Toothbrush (single or 2-pack), dish liquid (small size), laundry detergent (small size)

A basket 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!



HONOR MOTHERS With a gift to Re-member

Once again for Mother's Day (May 10th) members of the Christian Outreach Team suggest a fitting way to honor and remember your/any mother.

Re-member is a non-profit organization serving the Lakota population living on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. Re-member was established in 1998 to focus on ways to improve the lives on the reservation through various building and growing projects, as well as gathering and distributing goods to those in need. You can honor your mother(s) with a gift to Re-member in any amount. Your gift will help provide much needed supplies to this area, considered one of the poorest in our country.

A member of the Christian Outreach Team will be in the Education Building between worship services on Sunday May 3rd for you to make your gifts. You may also make gifts during the week through the church office.

Write a check payable to First Lutheran Church (or you can give cash). Please 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:

Given by:-----

RECYCLING CHALLENGE

CHRISTIAN OUTREACH is participating in the NexTrex Recycling Challenge. With the new rules by NexTrex - In each quarter of the year, we hope to collect at least 250 pounds of plastic. This plastic will be recycled into decking boards. For each 250 pounds collected, First Lutheran will get 1 entry to a random drawing by Trex to win a choice of a bench or 4 other prizes.

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.

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.

Pounds of plastic collected to date and taken to Westmoreland Cleanways:

2025

166 pounds

2026

1st quarter (Jan-Mar) - 253 pounds

*2nd quarter (Apr-Jun)-37 pounds
(as of 4/9/26)*

Grand total (to date): 456 pounds of plastic recycled

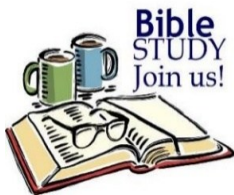
Stewardship: All Things Great and Small

CONNECTED AT THE TABLE

Food – like water – is essential for life and a sign of our relationship with creation and the Creator. In a way, the story of God’s relationship with God’s people is a story about food – both physical and spiritual. In the beginning, God plants a rich garden of foods. Of course, the first sin involves eating a forbidden food. What is the final act of Hebrews as they leave slavery in Egypt? A meal. The focus of many laws for God’s people? Food. What do Jesus and the twelve disciples do the last time they are together? Share food. God’s promise in Revelation? Plenty of food.

Food as “daily bread for the health of the world” demands of us, people of faith, responsible stewardship of the gifts we have received in creation. It calls to us, out of our faith, to understand food for what it is, namely a sign of our dependence and interdependence, the “stuff” that unites us with loved ones around a table and as neighbors around the world.

This message is excerpted from “Faithful eating” by Ryan P. Cumming in the March/April 2024 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.



BIBLE STUDY: The Women of the Bible

You have two opportunities each month to join. We will gather at 1:30 PM and 6:00 PM on Monday, May 18. Hope to see you there!



Worship in Park is back!

This summer we will once again have worship in the park. It will be on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays in June, July, and August. These services will be at 6:00 pm.

This is casual worship in the park (or the Fellowship Hall if necessary). Please bring your favorite camp chair and dress for the outdoors. Hope to see you there!

MARTIN LUTHER



"DEAR CHRISTIANS,
ONE AND ALL REJOICE"

LUTHERLYN TO LUTHERLAND

Luthertours is blessed to share that space remains available for your upcoming journey to Germany, "In the Footsteps of Martin Luther," September 16-25, 2026. This promises to be a powerful and faith-enriching experience as we walk together along the historic Reformation Road.

Lutherlyn and LutherTours continue to joyfully promote this meaningful spiritual adventure. At present, nine guests are confirmed, and with several months remaining before the final payment deadline of June 30, 2026, we are prayerfully confident we will reach our anticipated minimum of 12-15 travelers. (If you've ever been to Lutherlyn, either as a camper or on retreat, you can take part in this tour).

Imagine standing where Martin Luther once stood, reflecting at the very sites that shaped the Reformation, and growing deeper in faith through shared worship, fellowship, and discovery. What a blessing to experience this sacred history alongside those you cherish most.

We are also pleased to offer our "Refer a Friend Savings" opportunity for this departure. When you refer a friend who registers and submits their deposit by June 15, 2026, you will both receive **\$100 OFF the TOUR PRICE.** **New travelers enter the Savings Code RAF100 on your tour registration form.** You can use fellow traveler Rebecca Brunetta as your referral to receive this offer.

Go to <https://christiantravelplanners.com/tours/reformation-tour-091626> for tour itinerary and pricing (airfare is separate).

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Phone: 1.844.777.1517 ext. 2

Email: djones@luthertours.com



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.



are needed for May 17, May 31, and July 12. Contact the church office if you would like to provide altar flowers for any of these dates. Cost is \$50.00.

*"...for he himself has said "I will never leave you or forsake you."
Hebrews 13:5*

MAY 2026

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 10:45 Worship NOISY OFFERING		5	6 FOOD/HEART Noon 6:30 Fellowship	7	8	9
10 8:15 Worship 9:30 SCS 10:45 Worship JAVA TABLE	11 6:00 Finance	12 6:00 Council	13 FOOD/HEART Noon	14	15	16
17 8:15 Worship 9:30 SCS 10:45 Worship	18 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE Bible Study 1:30 & 6:00	19	20 FOOD/HEART Noon	21 FOOD BANK	22	23
24 8:15 Worship 10:45 Worship Pentecost	25	26 NEWSLETTER FOLDING 6:30 Ch. Ed. Youth	27 FOOD/HEART Noon 6:30 Property	28	29	30
31 8:15 Worship 10:45 Worship Conference 4 Caucus @ St. James						

Beginning **Sunday, June 7**, there will be just one service at 9:30 AM.

Worship in the Park on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of June, July and August at 6:00 PM.

There will be no Sunday Church School during the summer months. SCS will conclude the school year on **Sunday, May 17**, and resume **September 13** with Rally Recreation Day.