

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..... 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

NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE PAID
GREENSBURG, PA 15601
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GREENSBURG, PA

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

office@felchurch.org

November 2023



REMEMBERING THE SAINTS ON
NOVEMBER 5

We give thanks to God for all those who have passed on in faith and those who have been baptized into the faith this past year.

Those Who Have Passed

John Cindrick
Charles Fink, Jr.
Caroline Howard
Jeffrey Humphrey
Donald Johnson
Alice Ruff
Evelyn Sager
Virginia Stumpo

Baptized

Kacie Colonna
Noah Englehart
Gemma Knatz
Monroe Manley
Via Manley
Ayven Sasso

Pastor's Note

Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:6-7, NRSV)

Dear Friends in Christ,

The holidays are approaching quickly. As you receive this note, it is probably only a few days ago that you would have been welcoming trick-or-treaters at your door. Now we turn our attention to Thanksgiving, a day focused on giving thanks.

In October, First Lutheran had the privilege of hosting the Women of the ELCA from Cluster 4 for their first in-person meeting since COVID. It was a day focused on Praise and Thanksgiving. As I said to the group that day during worship, "on an occasion such as this, there might be a temptation to lament....and that would be understandable." After all, it had been years since their last in-person gathering, but there was and continues to be much for which we are thankful.

Now as we enter into November and see the human suffering associated with war as it continues in Ukraine and now has erupted in the Holy Land, there is much to lament. I encourage you to carry those laments to God in prayer and I also encourage you to look for those things for which you are thankful and carry those to God as well.

As Lutherans, we live in such tension all the time. We live in this world, while not being conformed to this world. We live simultaneously as Saint and Sinner. So, carry those frustrations to God and at the same time consider all the blessings that God has bestowed on you and give thanks.

Even as I lament the brokenness in our world, I remain thankful. There are many things for which I am thankful. Among them, I am thankful for family and friends, and for each one of you, my sisters and brothers in Christ. I am also thankful for God who loves us and will not let sin and death have the final word, but rather sends us Christ who guards our hearts and minds.

May the peace of Christ be with you always!

Peace, Pastor Chris

FIRLU HAS HEARD...



-that as of September 25th, our offering receipts were \$130,679. Last year they were \$135,130.

-that **Noisy Offering** will be collected the first Sunday of November to benefit Lutheran Disaster Relief.

-that assistance is greatly needed on Thursday, November 16 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 December newsletter is Friday, November 17. Please be prompt. You may submit your articles to office@felchurch.org.

-that there will be Congregational Meetings following worship services November 5 and November 19.

-that the ELCA wants to know what it is to be the church God is calling us to be. But we need **YOU**. Join us as we seek to discern God's Spirit and work to become the church God is calling us to be. This is Future Church; This is God's Love Made Real. Please take some time to go to <https://lovemadereal.elca.org> to watch a few videos and take a 15 minute survey. Thank you.

-that Sunday School students are to wear "God's Work Our Hands" T-shirts and make treats for Food from the Heart November 5.

-that Sunday School students will decorate Angel Tree angels November 26.

See you at worship,
FIRLU

Serving At Worship In November 2023

11/5 11/12 11/19 11/26

ACOLYTES

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

LECTORS

Gretchen Fischer	Jean Miller	Liz Rowe	Dave Von Schlichten
Bob Errett	Shirley Huls	Sunshine Keiser	Dan Krack

ASSISTING MINISTERS

Dianna Marusko	Carolyn Hanzel	Rebecca Brunetta	Dianna Marusko
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ALTAR GUILD

Kim Woodley
Shirley Huls

8:15 USHERS



NOISY OFFERING FOR NOVEMBER

Lutheran Disaster Relief (Maui Wildfires)

For November and December’s Noisy Offering, we will be collecting for Lutheran Disaster Relief.



GREENSBURG HOLIDAY PARADE

NOVEMBER 18, 4:30 PM

Our youth will once again be serving hot dogs and our Christian Outreach Team will be serving hot chocolate at the Holiday Parade on Saturday, November 18.

This is a great opportunity to show Christian welcome and kindness to those in our community. If you are in elementary school, middle school, or high school, jump on this opportunity to live out your faith. Likewise, all members of the church are Evangelists, so come and share the warmth of the Gospel as we serve hot chocolate. Everyone needs to meet at 2:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall to get things ready.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS, NOVEMBER 5 AND 19

Brief congregational meetings will follow worship services on November 5 and 19 for the purpose of nominating and electing congregation council members.

On November 5, nominations will be received. Balloting and/or elections will follow two weeks later at the Sunday, November 19 meeting.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

What comes to mind when you think of the Ten Commandments? Law, rules, code, regulation? What about a gift?



Are you interested in exploring the commandments, given our Lutheran perspectives on Law & Gospel, Saint & Sinner, Already & Not Yet?

We hope that you will be able to join in the discussion. We will have two opportunities to meet each month and hopefully one will fit into your schedule. The material will be the same for each session.

You can join the discussion at either 1:30pm or 6:00pm

Planned dates are the following Mondays:

November 27
December 18

***If you plan on attending,
please let the office know
so that enough materials
can be prepared.***

*"For the mountains shall depart and the hill
be removed, but my kindness shall not depart
from thee, neither shall the covenant of my
peace be removed, saith the Lord
that hath mercy on thee."*

Isaiah 54:10

Online Giving



Did you know that you can make donations to First Lutheran with an electronic payment option that lets you securely and conveniently make donations/offerings online?

Through your Bank:

To set up payments, go to your bank's website (Citizens Bank was used for this example) and look for the "Pay Bills" tab. Click on this tab and then "Add Company". Then click on Charities, then other and enter First Lutheran Church, address and phone number. If you need to enter an account number, use "offering" or "donation", or follow the instructions on your banks website.

Once this is set up, you can give any time, can set up automatic giving, and even put a note as to where you want the donation to go (i.e. flowers, memorials, etc). The bank then sends a check to the church from your account. So simple!

Tithe.ly

In the coming weeks you will also have the option to give to First Lutheran through **Tithe.ly**. This option will allow giving through a variety of means. In addition to adding an option for our regular supporters, this will also provide a convenient method to support the ministries of First for those who might be visiting or who don't typically utilize cash or checks. Keep an eye out for additional details about this giving option.

We have found that many people give faithfully every time they are at worship at First Lutheran and we are thankful for your generosity. Utilizing one of these online options also provides an option to make sure your support continues if you are away.

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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School students are to wear “God’s Work Our Hands” T-shirts and make treats for Food from the Heart November 5.

Sunday School students will decorate Angel Tree angels November 26.

VETERANS SUICIDE PREVENTION WALK The Center for Healthcare Solutions in collaboration with Unity in Community invite you to attend: A Veterans Suicide Prevention Walk and Human Service Fair on Friday November 10, 2023, from 10:00 A.M to 3:00 PM at Westmoreland County Community College, 145 Pavilion Lane, Youngwood, PA, 15697. Registration for the walk begins at 9:00 A.M.

The Walk will commence at 10:00 A.M from the Student Achievement Center, left to the Trail to the Science Center and back to the Center.

Human Service Fair to begin directly after. **This is a free event.**

MATCHING GIFT PROGRAM 2023

First Lutheran has sponsored a Matching Gifts program since 2002. Members of First Lutheran are invited to make a gift to any non-profit, human service organization whose mission is in accordance with First Lutheran’s mission, as agreed upon by our Community Outreach Committee. Write your check out to First Evangelical Lutheran Church and mark “Matching Funds” on the memo line on the bottom left corner of the check. Next to “Matching Funds” write the name of the organization(s) to whom you wish to donate matching funds (Example: Matching Funds...Westmoreland Food Bank). Such gifts will be matched by a First Lutheran Check and will be sent to the organization. Also, such gifts can be made throughout the year until the total budgeted amount of \$10,000.00 is met. More details regarding the Matching Gift Program are available from the office.

You are invited to attend **FIRST THURSDAY WORSHIP & LUNCHEON** at ZION’S LUTHERAN CHURCH Thursday, November 2, 2023. Services begin at 12:05 PM and lunch is served following service at 12:30 PM. Suggested lunch donation—\$5.00.



THRIVENT FINANCIAL ACTION TEAM
SUPPLY ITEMS – SOCKS, UNDERWEAR AND TOYS
November 1 – November 28

The Westmoreland County Children’s Bureau makes arrangements for children from birth to 18 years of age in family emergencies. These children are often removed from their homes with only the clothes they are wearing and little if any personal belongings, such as a toy or a favorite stuffed animal. The Bureau maintains a “children’s closet” for those under their supervision. The closet is currently low on supply items, namely children’s socks, underwear and toys.

Thrivent Financial Action Team is collecting new toys, children’s socks and underwear for the children under the care of the Westmoreland County Children’s Bureau. One way you can help these children in need is to donate children’s socks, underwear and toys. Collection boxes are located in the education building foyer, the narthex at the back of the church, and in the Fellowship Hall. If you wish to make a monetary contribution, please make checks payable to “Westmoreland Children First” and place in an envelope.



POINSETTIAS

Poinsettias will again decorate our church on Christmas Eve. You are invited to purchase a plant at a cost of \$10.00 and “lend” it to the parish. Plants that are purchased may be removed from the church following the 7:00 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service.

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. We must have your order by **Monday, December 18.**

POINSETTIA ORDER FORM:

In honor of _____

By _____

And/or

In Memory of _____

By _____

Amount enclosed \$ _____

**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST
December 3**



We will gather in the Fellowship Hall for breakfast between services to celebrate the beginning of Advent. The menu includes:

- Scrambled eggs
- Bacon
- Hash Browns
- Fruit
- Cinnamon Rolls/Pastries
- Orange Juice/Coffee/Tea

Reservation forms for the breakfast are included in the church bulletin, use the form below or you may call the church office. Reservations are requested by **November 26, 2023**.

All are welcome! Make sure to mark your calendar and come celebrate the beginning of Advent!

Name:_____

Number Attending:_____

A donation to defray expenses may be given if you so desire.


**HELP US DECORATE OUR
“NATIVE AMERICAN CHRISTMAS TREE”**

Native American children need our help this Christmas. The Northern Cheyenne and Crow Reservation in Montana is in desperate need of warm clothing for their children. Every winter, Native Americans face weather conditions that could lead to hypothermia. Fifty nine percent of homes are substandard: lacking water, electricity, insulation, or a sewage system.



This year our “Christmas Tree” will be transformed into a “Native American Christmas Tree” Please help us decorate the “Native American Christmas Tree” by purchasing new children’s & youth's hats, scarves and mittens. Susan from Saint Labre Indian School stated they have 400 students from infants to high school students who are in need. You may place your purchases on the tree, under the tree or bring them to the church office.

On December 17, we will gather all of our blessed hats, scarves, gloves and mittens and mail them to Susan (who is in charge of Donor Relations) in Ashland, Montana. She will distribute our winter wear to the children of the Northern Cheyenne and Crow Reservation.



ALTAR FLOWERS are needed for December 31, 2023. Cost is \$50.00. Please contact the church office if you would like provide the altar flowers for December 31 in memory or honor of someone.



First Lutheran will again participate in Operation Reindeer. Your gifts should be new, unboxed and unwrapped. Please bring them to the church office by Monday, December 4. Thank you!

OPERATION REINDEER GIFT SUGGESTIONS

Operation Reindeer is Mental Health of America's annual drive to provide Christmas gifts for Westmoreland County residents at Torrance State Hospital, a long term facility for psychiatric patients. These items make being away from family at Christmastime easier for patients who struggle with mental illnesses.

Please, no items with glass, belts, razors or other safety hazards!

Clothing

New Men's size XL or larger Women's size L or larger
(XXL and larger and 1X and larger sizes are greatly needed)

Sweat shirts & pants, tops, tee shirts, pants or jeans

Bathrobes (no belts), jackets, coats, outerwear,

Socks, mittens, gloves, hats, ear muffs

Sweaters, undergarments, pajamas



ANGEL TREE 2023

It is that time of the year to donate for the Angel Tree!

We will be accepting gift cards for the children of our Food Bank families. Angels will be available the first Sunday of Advent, December 3.

Donations of \$25 dollar gift cards for Target or Walmart will be accepted until **Monday, December 11, 2023.**

Our Sunday School students will be making the Angels again this year.

Please choose an angel from the Christmas Tree and attach the gift card to the angel and place it in the offering plate or bring to the church office. If you would like to keep the angel, place the gift card in an envelope, write "ANGEL TREE" on the outside of the envelope and place it in the offering plates or drop off in the church office. Thank you!



CHRISTMAS EVE SCHEDULE

CHRISTMAS EVE, December 24

10:00 AM Fourth Sunday of Advent.

7:00 PM Candlelight Communion Service.

December 31 Only one service at 10:00 AM.

Philosophy of Stewardship

Stewardship is about relationship. First our relationship with God, from whom all blessings flow. In right relationship, we put God at the very center of our being. With God at the center, every other relationship settles into its right place, including:

Our relationship with our time, talents and treasures. We don't own our time, it's given to us to use wisely as we walk on the earth. Most people find it easy to think of time in this way, but it's harder to think of talents and treasures as things we don't own, aren't entitled to and have no right to hoard.

Our relationship to the earth. The earth is God's, and produces an abundance of the essentials for our lives: food, water, air, resources for keeping warm and building shelter. The earth belongs to God but is entrusted to us to use. Stewardship involves thoughtful consumption of resources so all will have enough and the processes that sustain life will not be harmed.

Our relationship to others. Jesus commanded us to love God first, and then our neighbor as ourselves. In a world where greed, anger, hatred and selfishness abound, Stewardship calls us to embrace God's love more fully, that we may embrace others.

Stewardship is a journey. Like all faith disciplines, Stewardship takes awareness, prayer and practice.

From Stewartshipoflife.org

OPERATION REINDEER GIFT SUGGESTIONS continued:

Toiletries



Shampoo/conditioner, soap, body wash,
Brushes, pony tail holders,
Hand/body lotion, shaving gel/creams,
Lipstick, gloss, powder, eye shadow, mascara, lip balm, blush.

Miscellaneous

Craft kits, puzzle books,
CDs/DVDs Games, activity books, handheld games,
CDs/DVDs, Batteries (especially AA),
Wallets, watches Portable CD players, radios,
Sports memorabilia (especially Pittsburgh teams),
Writing paper, stationary items especially with stamps,
Diabetic or sugarless items,
Gently used luggage.

November 2023

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 FOOD/HEART Noon 6:30 Fellowship	2 6:15 Handbells	3	4 
5 8:15 Worship 9:30 SCS 10:00 Choir 10:45 Worship Cong. Meeting NOISY OFFERING	6	7 6:00 Council	8 FOOD/HEART Noon	9 6:15 Handbells	10	11
12 8:15 Worship 9:30 SCS 10:00 Choir 10:45 Worship JAVA TABLE	13	14 6:30 Ch. Ed./Youth 7:00 Choral Soc.	15 FOOD/HEART Noon	16 FOOD PANTRY 6:15 Handbells	17 DECEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	18
19 8:15 Worship 9:30 SCS 10:00 Choir 10:45 Worship Cong. Meeting	20	21 6:30 Finance	22 FOOD/HEART Noon	23 OFFICE CLOSED 	24 OFFICE CLOSED	25
26 8:15 Worship 9:30 SCS 10:00 Choir 10:45 Worship	27 1:30 & 6:00 Ten Commandments Bible Study	28 NEWSLETTER FOLDING 6:00 Executive 7:00 Choral Soc.	29 FOOD/HEART Noon 6:30 PM Property	30 6:15 Handbells		

FALL BACK!

Remember to turn your
clocks back
November 4.
Standard Time begins
Sunday, November 5!



CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

Sign up calendar and
instructions are on the table
in the narthex. Please sign
up for a Sunday.



JAVA TABLE

The Java Table will be open
on the second Sunday of
each month between
services.