

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 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

November 2024



REMEMBERING THE SAINTS ON
 NOVEMBER 3

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

Robert Bowman
 Teresa Grove
 James Skodak
 Barbara Slaughenhaupt
 Shirley Thomas
 Catherine Yurcovich

Baptized

Royce Boatright
 Bentley Fauth

Pastor's Note

Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices, who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices; who, from our mother's arms, has blest us on our way with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today. (ELW 840).

Dear Friends in Christ,

The air is getting increasingly brisk as we are reminded that autumn is here. As we enter the month of November it seems that anxiety levels are on the rise. Many are wondering how the elections will turn out and what that will mean in the months to come. At the same time, war continues in Ukraine and in the Middle East. Of course, we also have those challenges that we are facing on a more personal level.

While many things may weigh heavy on our minds, the month of November is also a month focused on thanks as we prepare to celebrate Thanksgiving at the end of the month. It may seem a challenge to be thankful given those situations we face that are challenging at best, but we have much to be thankful for and I was reminded of that great hymn of thanksgiving, *Now Thank We All Our God*.

This beloved hymn of thanksgiving was written by a little known German pastor named Martin Rinkart. This beautiful hymn becomes even more remarkable, I think, when we consider the life of Pastor Martin.

Most of his life was lived through the Thirty Years War. He ministered to the people of Eilenburg, a walled city which became a refuge for people from all around. In addition to the many lives lost during battle, famine and overcrowding led to the rapid spread of disease. As a result of these circumstances, Rinkart is said to have officiated more than 4,000 funerals in 1637 alone.

(Continued on Page 1)



FIRLU HAS HEARD...

-that as of September 24th, our offering receipts were \$134,974. Last year they were \$130,679.

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

-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 sympathy is extended to the family of Catherine Yurcovich.

-that Food Bank distribution is **Thursday, November 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, November 21, your effort will be greatly appreciated.

-that there is **NO Food from the Heart November 27**.

-that you are invited to attend **FIRST THURSDAY WORSHIP & LUNCH** at Zion's Lutheran Church Thursday, November 7, 2024. Services begin at 12:05 PM and lunch is served following the service at 12:30 PM. Suggested lunch donation- \$5.00.

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

-that there will be Congregational Meetings following worship services November 3 and November 17.

See you at worship,
FIRLU

Serving At Worship In November 2024

11/3

11/10

11/17

11/24

LECTORS

Rebecca Brunetta	Liz Rowe	Bill Pfeifer	Mark Barnhart
Tawnya Combs	Jeanne Christensen	Megan Zobb	Shirley Huls

ASSISTING MINISTERS

Dianna Marusko	Carolyn Hanzel	Rebecca Brunetta	Dianna Marusko
	Tawnya Combs		

ALTAR GUILD

Kim Woodley
Shirley Huls



*“He gives power to the faint and
strengthens the powerless”*

Isaiah 40:29

(Continued from Page 2)

It might be hard to imagine that such a beautiful hymn of thanks could come from someone in such circumstances. Pastor Martin, however, recognized that God is faithful even in such times. God’s blessings abound, but we may only recognize them if we pause to consider them.

I invite all of you to look for the ways that God has blessed you with countless gifts of love to help us along our way. As we approach this Thanksgiving, may we all remember God’s blessings and give thanks with hearts, hands, and voices.

May you all have a Blessed and Happy Thanksgiving!

Together in Christ,
Pastor Chris

CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS, NOVEMBER 3 AND 17

Brief congregational meetings will precede worship services on November 3 and 17 for the purpose of nominating and electing congregation council members.

On November 3, nominations will be received. Balloting and/or elections will follow two weeks later at the Sunday, November 17 meeting.



GREENSBURG HOLIDAY PARADE

NOVEMBER 23, 5:00 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 23.

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 3:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall to get things ready.

NOISY OFFERING FOR NOVEMBER

Lutheran World Relief for Palestine

Due to the horrific, ongoing violence in and around Gaza, a severe humanitarian crisis continues to escalate in the Holy Land. The ELCA is walking with many partners in the region, including the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land and Augusta Victoria Hospital, to address the most pressing needs for people in the areas surrounding Gaza, including the West Bank and other occupied territory.

THE PARABLES OF JESUS



**New Bible
Study Series**

Interested in Jesus teaching through parables? Join the conversation as we explore some of Jesus' most interesting and challenging teachings.

You have two opportunities each month to join. We will gather at 1:30 PM and 6:00 PM on November 18 (The Good Samaritan) and December 16. Hope to see you there!

OPERATION REINDEER GIFT SUGGESTIONS continued:

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.**

MATCHING GIFT PROGRAM 2024

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.



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 9. 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

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.

BECAUSE OF GOD'S GREAT MERCY

a stewardship program for our congregation



"Because of God's Great Mercy" is the title of our stewardship emphasis this year. The scriptural basis of this focus on our stewardship of all that God has entrusted into our care is I Peter 2:9, "But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness and into his marvelous light."

We begin by proclaiming all that God has done for us, hence the title "Because of God's Great Mercy." God has made us God's own people. We will also consider how generous giving is an important part of every Christian's life, and how our combined generosity can make even greater things possible through our congregation.

We will think together about how our giving to First Lutheran is an important part of our Christian faith, and how First Lutheran uses our offerings to do God's work within the congregation's walls, in our community, and around the world.

"Because of God's Great Mercy" will ask you to do two things. First, you will be asked to prayerfully consider increasing your giving to First Lutheran by at least ½ of 1% of your household income. Second, you will be asked to consider using an automatic funds transfer program that First Lutheran already has in place for your giving.

"Because of God's Great Mercy" will use mail, e-mail, and time in worship to share information with you. Please make a special effort to watch for material during this important time in our congregation's life.



POINSETTIAS

Poinsettias will again decorate our church on Christmas Eve. You are invited to purchase a plant at a cost of \$11.00 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 16.**

POINSETTIA ORDER FORM:

In honor of _____

By _____

And/or

In Memory of _____

By _____

Amount enclosed \$ _____

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, gloves, snow pants and jackets. Curtis 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.

December 22 is the last day to bring hats, gloves, snow pants and jackets to decorate our Native American Christmas Tree. We will gather all of our blessed hats, gloves, snow pants, and jackets. They will be mailed to Curtis (who is in charge of Donor Relations) in Ashland, Montana. He will distribute our winter wear to the children of the Northern Cheyenne and Crow Reservation.



**THRIVENT FINANCIAL ACTION TEAM
SUPPLY ITEMS – SOCKS, UNDERWEAR AND TOYS
November 1 – December 9**

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.



ANGEL TREE 2024

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 1.

Donations of \$25 dollar gift cards for Target or Walmart will be accepted until **Sunday, December 15, 2024**.

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!

I will
Follow
God
like
Ruth



RUTH CIRCLE will meet Thursday, November 14 at 7:00 PM in the church parlor. Ladies of the congregation, please join us for fellowship and always delicious dessert.

Financial Update Through September 2024		
Giving		
2024	2023	Budget
\$ 154,563	\$ 150,133	\$ 176,250
Expense		
2024	2023	Budget
\$ 277,058	\$ 244,959	\$ 337,987

November 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 ALL SAINTS	4	5 6:00 Executive	6 FOOD/HEART Noon 6:30 Fellowship	7 6:15 Handbells	8	9
10 8:15 Worship 9:30 SCS 10:00 Choir 10:45 Worship JAVA TABLE	11	12 6:00 Council	13 FOOD/HEART Noon 6:30 Christian Outreach	14 6:15 Handbells 7:00 Ruth Circle	15	16
17 8:15 Worship 9:30 SCS 10:00 Choir 10:45 Worship	18 NEWLETTER DEADLINE 1:30 & 6:00 Bible study	19 6:30 Finance	20 FOOD/HEART Noon	21 FOOD BANK 6:15 Handbells	22	23
24 8:15 Worship 9:30 SCS 10:00 Choir 10:45 Worship	25 6:30 Stewardship	26 NEWSLETTER FOLDING 6:30 Ch. Ed./Youth	27 6:30 Property	28 Office Closed 	29 Office Closed	30

FALL BACK!

Remember to turn your
clocks back
November 3.
Standard Time begins



CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

Every Sunday
between services.

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.