

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
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**FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
 GREENSBURG, PA**



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

office@felchurch.org

October 2023

Pastor's Note

Dear Friends in Christ,

Fall is officially here! One of the things I love about living here in western PA is the changing of the seasons. As I start to enjoy the cooler mornings and evenings, I am reminded that those beautiful colors of fall will soon adorn our landscape. Even though I know those colors will only be around for a short time, for those few weeks I will enjoy the colors of fall and be reminded of the beauty of God's creation.

The beautiful colors that so many of us will enjoy will pass away. We will then greet (some of us more happily than others) the cold and snow of winter. The snow will eventually melt and combine with spring rains to become the water of new life. These changes of seasons and the powerful connection to water and life then serve as reminders of baptism.

In the waters of baptism, water connected with God's command and Word, we find forgiveness of sins, redemption from death and the devil, and eternal salvation through belief in it, just as the words and promise of God declare. As we witness the changes of the seasons, the cycles of life, perhaps we see the on-going cycle of baptismal life. As we find in Luther's Small Catechism, we as the baptized each day desire to drown our old sinful selves and rise to live the new life that we have in Christ.

I hope that you will be able to savor a few moments this fall encountering the beauty of God's creation. As you do, remember that new life is around the corner and be reminded of those grace-filled waters of baptism. Water that provides strength and comfort to us daily in the midst of all the struggles of this life. Water combined with God's word, that Martin Luther reminds us in his Large Catechism, allows us to say boldly, in the midst of whatever struggles we face, "But I am baptized! And if I have been baptized, I have the promise that I shall be saved and have eternal life, both in soul and body." Thanks be to God for beauty of creation, for the changing of the seasons, and the gift and promise found in baptism.

Peace, Pastor Chris

HARVEST HOME SUNDAY OCTOBER 22



The First Family will celebrate Harvest Home on Sunday, October 22 at both worship services. Cornstalks and pumpkins will adorn the sanctuary and you are asked to bring canned goods and food staples to church.

Your gifts will help in our Food Pantry with providing food to the needy in our area. "Now thank we all our God"!

CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS, NOVEMBER 5 AND 19

Brief congregational meetings will precede 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.



FIRLU HAS HEARD...

-that as of August 25th, our offering receipts were \$115,343 Last year they were \$111,084.

-that **Noisy Offering** will be collected the first Sunday of October to benefit The Little Free Food Truck sponsored by House of Prayer Lutheran Church, Aliquippa.

-that assistance is greatly needed on Thursday, October 19 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 November newsletter is Friday, October 20. 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.

See you at worship,
FIRLU

Serving At Worship In October 2023

10/1 10/8 10/15 10/22 10/29

ACOLYTES

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

LECTORS

Jean Miller	Kim Nicassio	David von Schlichten	Sue Boggs	Mark Barnhart
Joan Orr	Malcolm Sias	Megan Zobb	Rebecca Brunetta	Jeanne Christensen

ASSISTING MINISTERS

Carolyn Hanzel	Rebecca Brunetta	Carolyn Hanzel	Rebecca Brunetta
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ALTAR GUILD

Kim Woodley
Sherry Menz

8:15 USHERS

John Anderson
Becky Blank
Sue Boggs
Carolyn Hanzel



Reformation Sunday Fellowship Luncheon October 29

Immediately following the 10:45 AM service, we will gather in the Fellowship Hall for a lunch. The menu includes:

- Slider Sandwiches
- Chips
- Apple Dumplings
- Ice Cream
- Lemonade/Coffee/Tea

Reservation forms for the lunch are included in the church bulletin, use the form below or you may call the church office. Reservations are requested by **October 22, 2023**.

All are welcome! Make sure to mark your calendar and come celebrate the Reformation!

Name_____

Number Attending:_____

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

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:

- October 30
- November 27
- December 18

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

"Be strong and of good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them, for the Lord your God doth go with thee. He will not fail thee, nor forsake thee."

Deuteronomy 31:6



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS: TEACHERS AND CLASSES

From September thru May, join us for Sunday School 9:30 AM weekly!

Preschool & Kindergarten
 First, Second & Third Grade
 Fourth, Fifth & Sixth Grade
 Confirmation (Grades 7 & 8)
 Substitute Teacher

Sue Ross & Jeanie Grupp
 Sue Boggs & Ann Ohr
 Dianna Marusko
 Pastor Chris
 Megan Zobb

NOISY OFFERING FOR OCTOBER

The Little Free Food Truck

For September and October's Noisy Offering, we will be collecting for Aliquippa, PA's House of Prayer Lutheran Church's food truck program.

House of Prayer's program began with a weekly sit-down meal which has grown to meet the needs of approximately 80 people per week.

As the program developed, it became clear that many of the guests found traveling to dine at House of Prayer's facility challenging. House of Prayer pondered the problem and came up with the idea of "The Little Free Food Truck" where they take the food to those in need. The Synod pitched in with a help from the Ethel Versey Grant to Synod. This grant stipulates that it was given to provide care for programs that help needy people.

This, of course, enlarged the weekly program and the need for additional support.

FROM THE ORGAN BENCH.....



MINISTRY ON THE MARGINS

(Pastor Nancy M. Raabe)

(Take a few moments to read Luke 6).

It is important to acknowledge that Jesus' famous list of blessings and woes in Luke 6 does not emerge out of ordinary circumstances. He was not instructing his disciples in the comfort of a local house or establishment. He was not teaching in the security of a local synagogue.

Instead, Jesus had just been ministering to those on society's margins: a leper, a paralytic, a tax collector, a man with a withered hand. Then, calling his 12 disciples and positioning himself on "a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon (all of whom were straining to touch him), Jesus fixes his gaze on his disciples and utters the powerful words which so clearly articulate the nature of God's kingdom on earth, then and now, truth for all who heard then, and truth for us now: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God..."

Let us also seek whenever possible to attend to those on the margins, whether in our neighborhoods, our congregations, or in the world beyond the church walls. Through them we will discover that we have a capacity for ministry in the most extraordinary forms.

Gracious God, give us the boldness to venture outside our comfort zone so that we may discover new dimensions of your love. And from the writings of Sigismund von Birken, "Onward in his footsteps treading, trav'lers here, our home above, full of faith and hope and love, let us do our Savior's bidding. Faithful Lord, with me abide; I shall follow at your side."

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, October 5, 2023. Services begin at 12:05 PM and lunch is served following service at 12:30 PM. Suggested lunch donation—\$5.00.

October 2023 *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 10:00 Choir 10:45 Worship NOISY OFFERING	2	3 6:00 Council 7:00 Choral Soc.	4 FOOD/HEART Noon 6:30 Fellowship	5 6:15 Handbells	6 Office Closed	7
8 8:15 Worship 9:30 SCS 10:00 Choir 10:45 Worship JAVA TABLE	9	10 6:30 Christian Ed	11 FOOD/HEART Noon	12 6:15 Handbells	13	14
15 8:15 Worship 9:30 SCS 10:00 Choir 10:45 Worship	16	17 6:30 Finance 7:00 Choral Soc.	18 FOOD/HEART Noon	19 FOOD PANTRY 6:15 Handbells	20 NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	21
22 8:15 Worship 9:30 SCS 10:00 Choir 10:45 Worship HARVEST HOME	23	24 7:00 Choral Soc.	25 FOOD/HEART Noon 6:30 PM Property	26 NEWSLETTER FOLDING 6:15 Handbells	27	28
29 8:15 Worship 9:30 SCS 10:00 Choir 10:45 Worship REFORMATION SUNDAY—Lunch	30 1:30 & 6:00 Ten Commandments Bible Study	31 6:00 Executive				

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.