

FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
246 South Main Street
Greensburg, Pennsylvania
724-834-1457

Office hours: Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

office@felchurch.org

Chris Combs
Marvin J. Huls

Pastor
Director of Music

WELCOME TO FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH!

We gather here every Sunday to experience the life changing and life-giving grace of God. In this place we discover the truth of which the Bible speaks, “So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!” (2 Cor. 5:17).

We are thankful for your presence among us, thankful to God for His abiding presence that goes with you this week, and hopeful that you will be among us when we gather again.

SUNDAY OF THE PASSION

PALM SUNDAY

March 29, 2026
8:15 AM and 10:45AM

THE WORSHIP SERVICE

The beginning of the organ prelude is a call to silent, personal preparation for the worship of God.

GATHERING

Prelude

“All Things Bright and Beautiful”
(English melody, arr. Anna Laura Page)
FELC Handbell Ensembles

Congregation please stand.

The presiding minister begins (repeated one or more times):

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

Processional Gospel

An assisting minister or the presiding minister reads the processional gospel.

Matthew 21:1-11

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the twenty-first chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ² saying to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. ³ If anyone says anything to you, just say this, ‘The Lord needs them.’ And they will be sent immediately.” ⁴ This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

⁵ “Tell the daughter of Zion,
Look, your king is coming to you,
humble, and mounted on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”

⁶ The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; ⁷ they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. ⁸ A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹ The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

“Hosanna to the Son of David!
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

¹⁰ When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?” ¹¹ The crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Blessing of Palms

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. *A brief silence is kept.*

We praise you, O God,

for redeeming the world through our Savior Jesus Christ.

Today he entered the holy city in triumph

and was proclaimed messiah and king

by those who spread garments and branches along his way.

Bless these branches and those who carry them.
Grant us grace to follow our Lord in the way of the cross,
so that, joined to his death and resurrection,
we enter into life with you;
through the same Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Procession

The assisting minister addresses the assembly.

Let us go forth in peace,
in the name of Christ. Amen.

During the singing of the Hymn, those who are able may exit their pews by the side aisle and proceed to the rear of the sanctuary. Palms will be at the center doors. Please take your palm branch and then process back to your seat.

Hymn: “All Glory, Laud, and Honor” #344

**REFRAIN: All glory, laud, and honor to you, redeemer king,
To whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.**

**You are the king of Israel and David’s royal Son,
Now in the Lord’s name coming, our King and Blessed One.**

REFRAIN

**The company of angels are praising you on high;
creation and all mortals in chorus make reply. REFRAIN**

**The multitude of pilgrims with palms before you went;
Our praise and prayer and anthems before you we present.**

REFRAIN

**To you, before your passion, they sang their hymns of praise.
To you, now high exalted, our melody we raise. REFRAIN**

**Their praises you accepted; accept the prayers we bring,
great author of all goodness, O good and gracious King. REFRAIN**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

In these or similar words, the presiding minister may introduce the prayer of the day.

As we now enter into the contemplation of the passion of our Lord Jesus Christ and meditate on the salvation of the world through his sufferings, death, burial, and resurrection, let us pray.

Silence is kept. Then the presiding minister prays the prayer of the day.
Everlasting God, in your endless love for the human race you sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take on our nature and to suffer death on the cross. In your mercy enable us to share in his obedience to your will and in the glorious victory of his resurrection, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Assembly is seated

WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-9a

⁴ The Lord God has given me
the tongue of a teacher,
that I may know how to sustain
the weary with a word.

Morning by morning he wakens—
wakens my ear
to listen as those who are taught.

⁵ The Lord God has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious,
I did not turn backwards.

⁶ I gave my back to those who struck me,
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;
I did not hide my face
from insult and spitting.

⁷ The Lord God helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;

⁸ he who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me?

Let us stand up together.

Who are my adversaries?

Let them confront me.

⁹ It is the Lord God who helps me;
who will declare me guilty?

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 31: 9-16

⁹Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I | am in trouble;
my eye is consumed with sorrow,
and also my throat | and my belly.

¹⁰**For my life is wasted with grief, and my | years with sighing;
my strength fails me because of affliction,
and my bones | are consumed.**

¹¹I am the scorn of my enemies, a disgrace to my neighbors,
a dismay to | my acquaintances;
when they see me in the street | they avoid me.

¹²**Like the dead I am forgotten, | out of mind;
I am as useless as a | broken pot.**

¹³For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is | all around;
they put their heads together against me; they plot to | take my life.

¹⁴**But as for me, I have trusted in | you, O LORD.
I have said, "You | are my God.**

¹⁵My times are | in your hand;
rescue me from the hand of my enemies,
and from those who | persecute me.

¹⁶**Let your face shine up- | on your servant;
save me in your | steadfast love."**

Second Reading: Philippians 2:5-11

⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, ⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, ⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.

Christ humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death | on a cross.* Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above | ev'ry name. (Phil. 2:8-9)

Gospel: Matthew 26:14--27:66 The Passion According to Matthew

The holy gospel according to Matthew the twenty-sixth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Please refer to the Passion reading booklet included in your bulletin.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

(sung to tune of Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow)

- 1 Ride on, ride on in majesty!
Hear all the tribes hosanna cry;
O Savior meek, your road pursue,
with palms and scattered garments strewed.**

- 2 Ride on, ride on in majesty!
In lowly pomp ride on to die.
O Christ, your triumphs now begin
o'er captive death and conquered sin.**

- 3 Ride on, ride on in majesty!
The hosts of angels in the sky
look down with sad and wond'ring eyes
to see the approaching sacrifice.**

- 4 Ride on, ride on in majesty!
In lowly pomp ride on to die,
bow your meek head to mortal pain,
then take, O Christ, your pow'r and reign!**

APOSTLES' CREED

With the whole church we confess our faith.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.***

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

To stay current with our many continuing prayer needs, we will refresh our prayer list at the beginning of each new month by starting with a clean slate. We understand that many people will continue to need prayer beyond the length of one month. If you wish to continue to have someone listed in the bulletin for public prayer, please call the office by the last Wednesday of the month.

Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

*At each petition,
Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.*

*The presiding minister concludes the prayers with these words.
Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.*

Amen

Peace

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

THE MEAL

Offerings may be placed in the plates as they are passed. You can utilize your regular envelopes or the gold envelopes in the pews. You can also utilize our new online giving tool through Tithe.ly by visiting felchurch.org or utilize the QR code here:

Checks can also be mailed to: First Lutheran, 246 S. Main Street, Greensburg, PA 15601.



Thank you for your generous support of First's Ministry.

(Children, please bring your offering to the front of the church and place it in the "Thank You Jesus" Jar.)

Offertory **"O How Shall I Receive Thee"**
(Melchior Teschner, arr. A.W. Leupold)

Handbell Players:

**David Zaccari, Tom Flory, William Pfeifer,
Charla Keffer, Shirley Huls, Rebecca Brunetta,
Tawnya Combs, Sue Boggs, Cheryl Pfeifer, Elizabeth Rowe**

Offertory Response **"Create in Me a Clean Heart"** **# 186**



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Offertory Prayer (in unison)

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts; ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you,
almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ,
whose suffering and death gave salvation to all.

You gather your people around the tree of the cross,
transforming death into life.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

Thanksgiving at the Table

The presiding minister continues, using one of the following.

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.
Your mercy is everlasting
and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.
Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.
Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.
Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness
to the land of milk and honey.
Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.
Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.
Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup
we remember our Lord's passover from death to life
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life:
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Bless this feast.
Grace our table with your presence.
Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.
Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.
Breathe new life into us.
Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.
Come, Holy Spirit.

With your holy ones of all times and places,
with the earth and all its creatures,
with sun and moon and stars,
we praise you, O God,
blessed and holy Trinity,
now and forever. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

COMMUNION

All baptized who wish to receive the body and blood of Jesus for the forgiveness of their sins and the nourishment of their lives are welcome. It is not necessary to be a member of First Lutheran to receive the sacrament.

For those receiving the sacrament please note the following:
Communion is at the rail for those who desire.

- *We encourage everyone to continue using hand sanitizer before coming forward for communion.*
- *As you approach the chancel, take a plastic cup from the tray.*
- *The communion rail will fill from both sides of the congregation.*
- *We encourage everyone to leave added space at the rail, primarily between family units.*
- *For those who need gluten free or grape juice, please tell the Pastor or assistant during the distribution.*

- *Cups can be placed in the trays near each side aisle as you return to your pew.*
- *For those who would like to receive communion, but are not comfortable coming to the rail, please let an Usher know so that the Pastor and Assisting Minister can bring communion to you.*

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

and each person may respond Amen.

After all have received,

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The assisting minister leads a prayer after communion.

Let us pray.

God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of Salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Blessing

The presiding minister proclaims God's blessing.

Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

- 1 Go to dark Gethsemane, all who feel the tempter's pow'r;
your Redeemer's conflict see. Watch with him one bitter hour;
turn not from his griefs away; learn from Jesus Christ to pray.
- 2 Follow to the judgment hall, view the Lord of life arraigned;
oh, the wormwood and the gall! Oh, the pangs his soul sustained!
Shun not suff'ring, shame, or loss; learn from him to bear the cross.
- 3 Calv'ry's mournful mountain climb; there, adoring at his feet,
mark that miracle of time, God's own sacrifice complete.
"It is finished!" hear him cry; learn from Jesus Christ to die.
- 4 Early hasten to the tomb, where they laid his breathless clay;
all is solitude and gloom. Who has taken him away?
Christ is ris'n! He meets our eyes. Savior, teach us so to rise.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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BLESSED TO BLESS

SERVING TODAY:

8:15 AM

10:45 AM

ACOLYTE

Rachel Boggs

Owen Lenhart

LECTORS

PASSION READING

WORSHIP ASSISTANT

Kim Woodley

Tawnya Combs

ALTAR GUILD for March includes Kim Woodley and Linda Griffith.

PRAYER CONCERNS:

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER this week Brandie, Suzy, Terry, Doug, Dennis, Barry, Marsha, Broderick, Myron, Kris, Ray, Rachel, Kim, Alan, Jerry, Megan, Herman, Bobby, Patty, Hollie, Ernie, Jeffrey, DeAnna, Carl, and Heather.

THE ALTAR FLOWERS are given in memory of all the saints who have entered the church triumphant by the Barnharts.

PRAYER REQUESTS for First's Prayer Chain may be made at any time by calling the church office or by writing the request on the prayer cards in the pew racks and placing it in the offering plate. **If for whatever reason you do not want your name listed but would like to be on the prayer list, just let us know when you make your request.**

INDEPENDENCE HEALTH SYSTEM does not notify the church of member admissions. Please notify the pastor or call the church office if you or your loved one is hospitalized.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE last Sunday morning was 110.

A NURSERY is available for children to use on the second floor of the Education Building, down the hall from the Library.

PASTOR'S CONTACT INFORMATION: Pastor Chris Combs may be reached either by calling the church office at 724-834-1457, by email at PastorChris@felchurch.org or by calling or texting his cell phone at 412-973-4179. If the concern is of an urgent nature, please call his cell phone.

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. Thank you!

THIS WEEK AT FIRST:

Sunday – March 29 – Palm / Passion Sunday

8:15 – Worship

9:00 – Continental Breakfast

9:30 – Sunday School

10:45 - Worship

Wednesday – April 1

12:00 – Food From the Heart

Thursday – April 2

6:00 – Worship – Maundy Thursday – First Communion

Friday – April 3

6:00 – Worship – Good Friday

Saturday – April 4

10:00 – Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday – April 5 - Easter

NOISY Offering for Camp Agape

8:15 – Worship

10:00 – Choir

10:45 – Worship

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE



April 2	Maundy Thursday	6:00 PM
April 3	Good Friday	6:00 PM
April 5	EASTER SUNDAY	8:15 & 10:45 AM (No Sunday School)



To stock FOOD FROM the HEART (FFTH)
cupboards we are asking for donations in the upcoming
months:

- March** spaghetti sauce, diced tomatoes, or pasta
April chicken broth, beef broth, or creamed soups
May canned fruits, canned vegetables, or apple sauce

**Saved by Christ and guided by the Holy Spirit
we share God's love, through word and deed,
in service to all of God's Children.**

LENTEN WORSHIP AND LUNCH 12:05 PM Thursday, April 2 at
Zion's Lutheran Church. Menu is Soup & Salad Bar.

CHRISTIAN OUTREACH is participating in the **NexTrex Recycling Challenge**. Before October 1, 2026, we hope to collect 1000 pounds of plastic bags. This plastic will be recycled into decking boards and First can earn a park bench made of these boards. 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.

Since October 2025, 419 pounds of plastic have been deposited and taken to Westmoreland Cleanways for recycling.

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.

*"Taste and see that the Lord is good; happy
are they that take refuge in him"*

Psalms 34:8

SPRING TEA

Join us on April 25, 2026, at 1:00PM for Otterbein United Methodist Church's Spring Tea fundraiser.

There will be lots of fun, delicious food, and live musical entertainment. In addition, there will be a silent auction with lots of options including golf passes, gift cards for local establishments, Steeler memorabilia, and more! Call Otterbein United Methodist Church Office at 724-834-4060 for tickets. Ticket cost is \$25. Bring a friend and come out for a time of fun and fellowship.

2026 LENTEN

CONGREGATIONAL PROJECT



Ash Wednesday was February 18, and our thoughts now turn to God and.....our Lenten Project! A collection of clean, gently used clothing will occur from the 18th of February through Easter Sunday, to again be donated to the Community Clothes Closet at the Free Methodist Church in Greensburg. **Clothing can be dropped off on or beneath the table on the bathroom side of the Fellowship Hall.**

The Community Clothes Closet plays an important role in providing clothing to the county's children who have been displaced from their homes, often suddenly. This is where the Closet's greatest need lies. To assist with that need, a monetary collection will occur at the same time. If you find your closets are bare of unwanted clothing, consider a donation to help these children. Donations can be made via the yellow envelopes in the pews, with the designation Community Clothes Closet.

SWPA LDR – Upcoming Mission Trip

Youth – Save the Date – plans are being made for a trip to Johnstown, PA on July 5-8. This trip will end with a celebration with a group of youth coming from the Nebraska Synod to work in the Pittsburgh area. Registrations are open now and need to be completed by May 1.

If you are interested in this trip, please reach out to Pr. Chris for additional information.



**EASTER EGG HUNT
HOLY SATURDAY
April 4, 2026, 10:00 AM**

All children ages 12 and under are invited to come and hunt for Easter eggs at First Lutheran Church.

Friends are invited to join you as well.

Name of child attending _____

Age _____ Phone # _____

Email address _____

