

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

FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
 246 SOUTH MAIN STREET
 GREENSBURG, PA 15601-3183
 RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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 US POSTAGE PAID
 GREENSBURG, PA 15601
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**FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
 GREENSBURG, PA**



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

office@felchurch.org

September 2023

Pastor's Note

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.

Ecclesiastes 3:1 (NRSV)

Dear Friends in Christ,

As I was looking through one of my books, I came across a bookmark. I am not sure exactly when or where I got it, but it caught my attention. At the top it simply says, *Take Time*. Here is what follows:

- Take time to think; it is the source of power.
- Take time to read; it is the foundation of wisdom.
- Take time to play; it is the secret of staying young.
- Take time to be quiet; it is the opportunity to seek God.
- Take time to be aware; it is the opportunity to help others.
- Take time to love and be loved; it is God's greatest gift.
- Take time to laugh; it is the music of the soul.
- Take time to be friendly; it is the road to happiness.
- Take time to dream; it is what the future is made of.
- Take time to pray; it is the greatest power on earth.

Author Unknown

This reminded me of a passage referenced above from Ecclesiastes, which seemed particularly appropriate to me as we begin September. School has started once again and we find ourselves in a new season. That is a small change for some and a bigger change for others, depending on where we find ourselves this fall.

I encourage you to *Take Time* and remember that there are seasons in life and times for every matter under heaven.

Peace, Pastor Chris



RALLY DAY PLANNED FOR SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

On September 10, we will kick off another year of Christian learning and mission with a Rally Day. Sunday Church School resumes from 9:30 to 10:30 AM with classes for all ages.

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

Chicken Salad Croissant Sandwiches

Hot Dogs on buns for the kids!

Pickles Chips Cookies

Punch / 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 **September 3, 2023**.

All are welcome! Make sure to mark your calendar to kick off this year of learning and mission!

Name_____

Number attending _____

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



FIRLU HAS HEARD...

-that as of July 25th, our offering receipts were \$102,847. Last year they were \$97,735.

-that sympathy is extended to the families of John Cindrick and Charles Fink, Jr.

-that **Noisy Offering** will be collected on September 3 to benefit The Little Free Food Truck sponsored by House of Prayer Lutheran Church, Aliquippa.

-that assistance is greatly needed on Thursday, September 21 at 8:00 AM to unload the truck and sort groceries for Food Pantry.

-that **Choir Rehearsals** will resume.....

CHURCH CHOIR rehearsals will resume on Sunday, September 17 at 10:00 AM.

BELL CHOIR rehearsals will resume on Thursday, September 14 at 6:15 PM.

-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 October newsletter is Monday, September 18. Please be prompt. You may submit your articles to office@felchurch.org.

See you at worship,
FIRLU

Serving At Worship In September 2023

9/3

9/10

9/17

9/24

ACOLYTES

Aaron Woodley
Addy Saraceni

Molly Boggs

Aaron Woodley
Corrina Vuick

Molly Boggs
Nicholas Vuick

LECTORS

David von
Schlichten
Shirley Huls

Mark Barnhart
Sunshine Keiser

Sue Boggs
Dan Krack

Sherry Menz
Dianna Marusko

ASSISTING MINISTERS

Carolyn Hanzel

Rebecca Brunetta

Carolyn Hanzel

Rebecca
Brunetta

ALTAR GUILD

Roberta Laciak
Joan Orr

8:15 USHERS

Sue Boggs
Liz Rowe
Bill Pfeifer
Brian Erdman



Cookies For First Responders!

Sunday September 10th Rally Day

Hands are needed to:

- make cookies!
- deliver cookies to the Fellowship Hall Kitchen by Saturday Sept. 9th!
- pack cookies on Saturday Sept. 9th at 10:00 am!
- deliver cookies to First Responders after Church on Sunday. Sept. 10th!



Our Thanks for your help!

The Christian Outreach Committee

NOISY OFFERING FOR SEPTEMBER/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.

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?

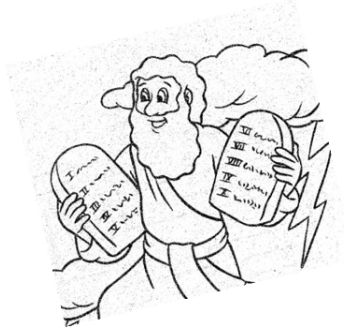
We hope that you will be able to join in the discussion. We will have two opportunities to meet each month and hopefully one will fit into your schedule, the material will be the same for each session.

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

Planned dates are the following Mondays:

September 25
October 30
November 27
December 18

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



You are invited to attend:



FIRST THURSDAY NOON
WORSHIP AND LUNCHEON
At
ZION'S LUTHERAN
CHURCH
140 S. Pennsylvania Ave.
Greensburg, PA 15601

Zion's First Thursday Noon Worship and Luncheon will be starting again. If you are in town or available, please plan to be with us the first Thursday of each month. Dates for each service are listed below.

Thursday, September 7, 2023

Thursday, October 5, 2023

Thursday, November 2, 2023

Thursday, December 7, 2023

*Services begin at 12:05 p.m.
Lunch is served following service at 12:30 p.m.
Suggested lunch donation - \$5.00*

"But my God shall supply all your needs according to his riches in glory by Jesus Christ."

Philippians 4:19



The Fellowship Committee is planning to provide a lunch after the 10:45 AM Service to celebrate Reformation Sunday on October 29, 2023. The menu will include a sandwich, chips and apple dumpling with ice cream. More information will be forthcoming. Mark your calendars today and plan to come, eat and take part in good fellowship.

MY BEING SINGS TO YOU

(Clayton Faulkner, Editor of Cross Accent)

What makes a hymn stick? Why are certain hymns ever fresh while others fall by the wayside? There are technical answers that address the beauty of the poetry and the sturdiness of the tune, but there is something else that makes a hymn stick: it has to do with how it embeds itself in our soul.



I can think of many hymns that are embedded in my soul. Every so often, there comes a moment during singing when I'm choked. I can't continue because my throat has closed, and my vision is blurred. Whatever the circumstances are in my life, God uses the hymn to speak to the deepest part of who I am. It can catch me by surprise and be totally overwhelming.

In my younger years, I would identify "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" (ELW 807) as one imbedded in my soul. There was something captivating about Ebenezer, that stone of help from I Samuel 7. "Prone to wander" captured the desire for fidelity that most inexperienced disciples grapple with. "Here's my heart" cuts to the center of what it all meant, offering the innermost self to God.

Lutherans are hymn-singing people. It's what we do. The hymn is one of the tools of the Spirit in calling, gathering, and equipping us to be the people of God. The lyrics draw out our voices together and impart the faith. The tunes bind our hearts together into one in the Spirit. The hymn rightly has a home in Lutheran worship and it always will.

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.



MEMORIAL GIFTS RECEIVED


First Lutheran Church's Memorial Fund has received a gift in memory of Alice Ruff from Pam Ruff.

Thank you to everyone who provided food items for our summer food drive. We are seeing an increased need for emergency food, and donations are appreciated at any time!



September 2023

Please note that this schedule of events is subject to

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 8:15 W&S 10:00 W&S Noisy Offering	4  Labor Day Office Closed	5 6:00 Council 7:00 Choral Soc.	6 FOOD/HEART Noon 6:30 Fellowship	7	8	9
10 8:15 Worship 9:30 SCS 10:45 Worship RALLY DAY Luncheon	11	12 6:30 Christian Ed 7:00 Choral Soc.	13 FOOD/HEART Noon	14 6:15 Handbells	15	16
17 8:15 Worship 9:30 SCS 10:00 Choir 10:45 Worship JAVA TABLE	18 OCTOBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	19 6:30 Finance 7:00 Choral Soc.	20 FOOD/HEART Noon 6:00 Christian Outreach	21 FOOD PANTRY 6:15 Handbells	22	23
24 8:15 Worship 9:30 SCS 10:00 Choir 10:45 Worship	25 1:30 & 6:30 Ten Commandments Bible Study	26 NEWSLETTER FOLDING 6:00 Executive 7:00 Choral Soc.	27 FOOD/HEART Noon 6:30 PM Property	28 6:15 Handbells	29	30

CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST



begins September 10.
 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 September 17 and on the second Sunday of each month between services starting in October.