

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**

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

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

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GREENSBURG, PA**



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

office@felchurch.org

**September 2024**

Pastor's Note

*“As Jesus went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things.*

*(Mark 6:34, NRSV)*

Dear Friends in Christ,

It's back-to-school time once again. This always seems to be on my mind at this time of year. Of course, learning is a life-long activity, but at back-to-school time it isn't lost in the back of our minds. We know students that are getting their pencils and backpacks together, so that they are ready for that first day of class. Most of us probably know a few teachers too. They have been busy getting rooms ready or putting syllabi together, making sure they are ready for that first day as well. Here in the church, we are also getting ready for another year of Sunday School and the teaching and learning that will take place here at First.

As I was thinking about all of the back-to-school things, I was reminded of something from our Gospel a few weeks ago. A great crowd had followed Jesus and the disciples and when Jesus saw the crowd, he had compassion for them.... and he began to teach them many things. This passage doesn't spell out the "many things" that Jesus taught, but it is clear that Jesus had compassion for the people and he taught them.

I think it is fair to guess that Jesus taught the crowd about God and about God's love for them. I suspect that he taught them something about himself, something they may not have understood at the time but were still leaning in to hear. That he came for their sake so that they might know God's love for them, something they might come to understand as grace.

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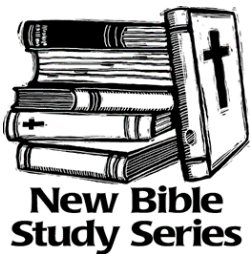
As we continue to learn, what do we know already and what can we share about God's grace and the difference that makes for us?

Blessings to all of our teachers and students as they begin this new year of teaching and learning. And may we all be compassionate teachers and students, learning from each other about God's ever amazing grace.

Together in Christ,  
Pastor Chris

## 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.



## THE PARABLES OF JESUS

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 September 16, October 14, November 18, and December 16. Hope to see you there!



## FIRLU HAS HEARD...

-that as of July 24th, our offering receipts were \$110,154. Last year they were \$102,847.

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

-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 **Bentley Mark Fauth and Royce Lee Boatright**, sons of Jamie Carolan have been welcomed into the Communion of Saints through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. We rejoice in the waters of baptism and God's gift of new life in Christ.

-that Sunday Church School resumes September 8 with Rally Recreation Day. Regular worship schedule will resume **September 8**. Continental Breakfast will also resume September 8.

-that the JAVA TABLE will be open September 15.

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

**CHURCH CHOIR** rehearsals will resume on Sunday, September 8 at 10:00 AM.

**BELL CHOIR** rehearsals will resume on Thursday, September 5 at 6:15 PM.

-that Food Bank distribution is **Thursday September 19**. 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, September 19, your effort will be greatly appreciated.

-that the deadline for the **October newsletter is Monday, September 16**. Please be prompt. You may submit your articles to [office@felchurch.org](mailto:office@felchurch.org).

See you at worship,  
FIRLU

# Serving At Worship In September 2024

9/1                      9/8                      9/15                      9/22                      9/29

## LECTORS

Mark Barnhart	Kim Woodley	Kevin Reilly	Liz Rowe	Bill Pfeifer
	Joan Orr	Malcolm Sias	Shirley Huls	Sunshine Keiser

## ASSISTING MINISTERS

Carolyn Hanzel	Tawnya Combs	Rebecca Brunetta	Carolyn Hanzel	Rebecca Brunetta
				Tawnya Combs

## ALTAR GUILD

Roberta Laciak  
Joan Orr



**FFTH NEEDS YOU!** Anyone who enjoys fellowship and working in the kitchen, please consider volunteering at FFTH. Hands are needed! Contact Bobbie Laciak if interested.

*“Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another... .”*  
*John 1:11*



## RALLY DAY PLANNED FOR SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

On September 8, 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:

Sloppy Joes / hot dogs

Chips

Sundae Bar

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 **September 1, 2024**

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Number attending \_\_\_\_\_

## BIBLES FOR LOVE PACKAGES

### BIBLES WILL BE COLLECTED THROUGH RALLY DAY



Do you have old Bibles that you no longer use or have inherited and don't know what to do with them? Well, we have an answer.

Beginning in January and running for several months, First Lutheran will collect used and/or new Bibles as well as Sunday School materials and other Christian materials to send to "Love Packages."

#### **Putting the Word of God into Hungry Hands All Over the World**

Love Packages collects bible donations—as well as donations of Christian books, Sunday School materials, and more—from people and publishers across the U.S. and ship it to our network of distributors all over the world. Love Packages is fueling international missions work and sending the gospel to the ends of the earth by putting donated bibles and other Christian literature into the hands of people around the world. Some of the locations shipped to include Kenya, India, Uganda, South America and others in need. They ship over 1,500 tons of recycled gospel literature to the mission field every year.

#### **Items we are collecting are:**

**Bibles** – new or used, any translation, New Testaments or other portions, individual gospel booklets.

**Reference Material** – Dictionaries, Bible dictionaries, concordances, commentaries, etc.

**Books** – all Christian books – adult or children, non-fiction.

**Magazines and Daily Devotionals** – any devotionals or magazine from a Christian publisher.

**Sunday School Materials** – adult quarterlies and all teacher manuals in any amount from all publishers; children's quarterlies with the teacher's manual and full student manuals.

**CDs, DVDs, Blu-ray** – Christian music & movies.

**Puppets, Nativity Sets, etc.** – bible games, biblical puzzles – anything that helps teach the gospel, especially to children.

Boxes for your items will be located in the Narthex, the Education Building and the Fellowship Hall.

For more information on Love Packages check them out on [lovepackages.org](http://lovepackages.org).

We will continue collecting until Rally Day, September 8th.

## YOUR GIFTS MATTER

In grace-full living, we are changed by God's grace, and that same grace makes our gifts more valuable to others. We are reminded, for example, in Romans 12:4-8 that we are all members of one body in Christ—and that we each have different gifts according to the grace given us. That passage asks us to thoughtfully consider our place in the church so that we may model the gifts and skills we have been given.

We all show generosity toward others not only in how we use our financial resources, but in how we spend our time and energy. Such generosity is truly a wonderful expression of God's grace. Giving willingly and with the optimism that our gifts will be used towards God's work is how we model grace-full generosity. Giving in celebration rather than in competition with others leads us to the fullest support of important opportunities and ministries, as we are all one in the body of Christ.

This was excerpted from Daily Grace, a daily devotional prepared by Women of the ELCA. Used with permission.

Learn more about Daily Grace at [welca.org/dailygrace](http://welca.org/dailygrace).



## HARVEST HOME SUNDAY OCTOBER 20

The First Family will celebrate Harvest Home on Sunday, October 20 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!"



## 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  
Sue Boggs  
Dianna Marusko  
Pastor Chris  
Megan Zobb

**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!



**RUTH CIRCLE** will meet Thursday, September 12 at 7:00 PM in the church parlor. All women of the congregation are invited and welcome.



## MEMORIAL GIFTS RECEIVED

First Lutheran Church's Memorial Fund has received gifts for Food from the Heart in memory of Teresa Grove from Sue Boggs and Gloria Rehak.

## NOISY OFFERING FOR SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER Lutheran World Relief for Ukraine

Since conflict began in late February, millions of people have fled Ukraine, with millions more in dire need within their country.

Thanks to an unprecedented outpouring of support from donors like you, the Lutheran World Relief Humanitarian Action team rapidly began working with partners to help suffering people in Poland and in Ukraine. Your generosity helped us deploy experts to support our relief operations, including a program manager, a health advisor, and an advisor to lead our efforts to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse in Ukraine and for Ukrainian refugees. Our response in Ukraine includes: Medical supplies and equipment. Partnerships with networks throughout Ukraine to provide shelter. Identifying key gaps in health services. Emergency cash for Ukrainian refugees in Poland. Protection from sexual exploitation and abuse. Supporting the Evangelical-Augsburg Church of St. Martin in Krakow, Poland, which established a hostel for Ukrainian women and children. Shipping and distributing LWR Quilts and Kits.

## Rally Day Cookies for First Responders!

### Sunday, September 8th Rally Day


Hands are needed to:

- Make cookies!
- Deliver cookies to the Fellowship Hall by 10 am Saturday September 7<sup>th</sup>!
- Pack cookies on Saturday September 7<sup>th</sup>.
- Deliver cookies to First Responders after Church on Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup>.



Our Thanks for your help!

# September 2024 *Please note that this schedule of events is subject to change.*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 9:30 Worship <b>NOISY OFFERING</b>	<b>2</b>  Labor Day <b>Office Closed</b>	<b>3</b>  6:00 Executive	<b>4</b> FOOD/HEART Noon	<b>5</b>  6:15 Handbells	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 8:15 Worship 9:30 SCS 10:00 Choir 10:45 Worship <b>RALLY DAY</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>  6:00 Council	<b>11</b> FOOD/HEART Noon	<b>12</b>  6:15 Handbells 7:00 Ruth Circle	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 8:15 Worship 9:30 SCS 10:00 Choir 10:45 Worship <b>JAVA TABLE</b>	<b>16</b> NEWSLETTER DEADLINE  Bible Study "Parables" 1:30 & 6:30	<b>17</b>  6:30 Finance	<b>18</b> FOOD/HEART Noon	<b>19</b>  FOOD BANK  6:15 Handbells	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 8:15 Worship 9:30 SCS 10:00 Choir 10:45 Worship	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>  NEWSLETTER FOLDING  6:30 Ch. Ed./Youth	<b>25</b> FOOD/HEART Noon  6:30 Property	<b>26</b>  6:15 Handbells	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 8:15 Worship 9:30 SCS 10:00 Choir 10:45 Worship	<b>30</b>					

## CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST



begins September 8.

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 15 and on the second Sunday of each month between services starting in October.