

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..... Amy Boggs
OFFICE MANAGER.....Patricia Pluck
OFFICE SECRETARY.....Gretchen Fischer
CUSTODIAN.....Tim Rowe

CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Kip Boggs
Rebecca Brunetta President
Tom Flory
Linda Griffith
Teresa Graziotto
Charlie Kaylor
Dan Krack
Bobbie Laciak
Leon (Bud) Nusselt
William Pfeifer III
Holly Rowe Vice President
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 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

June 2026



Pastor's Note

Let the wise listen and add to their learning, and let the discerning get guidance.

Proverbs 1:5 (NIV)

Dear Friends in Christ,

I want to start by saying thank you to everyone who submitted a response to our Worship Survey. The response was very good, and I wanted to share with you what Church Council learned from this.

Overall, we received 88 responses back. Of those, 39 indicated they primarily attend the 8:15 service, with 47 indicating 10:45 as their primary service. The vast majority of responses indicated that they would not reconsider worshipping at First if we were to move to only one Sunday Morning Service. Perhaps it is no surprise that most indicated that they currently attend one service over the other because it is either earlier or later. That did not necessarily correlate to fitting better with schedules.

(Continued on Page 2)

As council discussed the responses it appeared to affirm what we are currently doing. Having just one service in the summer allows people to see folks that regularly attend a different service, while adding the Saturday evening services allowed for flexibility and something different. Maintaining the two services through the school year, with some exceptions, also allowed flexibility for our earlier risers and those who prefer a little later start.

I do encourage you to continue to bring your thoughts and questions to Church Council. As we find in Proverbs, there is wisdom to be found in listening to one another and together we learn.

I recognize that this may not be the type of "Pastor's Note" you are accustomed to receiving, but I thought it important to share this information with you and to say Thank You from Church Council and myself for your responsiveness.

Together in Christ,

Pastor Chris

APRIL CHRISTIAN OUTREACH UPDATE

25 bags of emergency food distributed

13 health/personal care kits distributed

372 FFTH lunches served

56 Households served through Food Bank

FIRLU HAS HEARD...



-that as of April 30th, our general offering receipts were \$67,666. Last year they were \$66,777.

-that **Noisy Offering** will be collected the first Sunday of June to benefit St. Vladimir's for Ukraine.

-that there is interest in some church trivia and we need your help. Do you know some interesting facts about First? Please e-mail your trivia questions (and answers) to the office. Then look for those questions in upcoming editions.

-that congratulations are in order for Teresa Graziotto on her retirement after 31 years of teaching at Hempfield Area School District.

-that First's own Dan Krack will be returning for his fourth season at St. Vincent Summer Theater this month. He will be playing Doc in Ken Ludwig's farce, "Leading Ladies." The show runs June 9-14. Tickets are available at stvincent.edu/summertheatre or by calling 724-537-8900.

-that congratulations are in order for our 2026 graduates: Molly Boggs and Dean Giglio

-that together we are making great strides in keeping harmful plastic out of our landfills!! Thank you to all who bring in their plastic, those who sort the plastic and compact it, and those who deliver the plastic to Westmoreland Cleanways.

-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 Food Bank distribution is **Thursday, June 18**. 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, your effort will be greatly appreciated.

-that the deadline for the **July newsletter is Monday, June 15**. Please be prompt. You may submit your articles to office@felchurch.org.

Have ideas for other newsletter items? We would love to hear those too. Please send into the office.

Do you have any special announcements to share with FIRLU? Please share them with the office.

See you at worship,
FIRLU

Serving At Worship In June 2026

	6/7	6/14	6/21	6/28
9:30 Acolyte	Owen Lenhart	Robbie Jefferson	Nathaniel Boggs	Colton Boggs
9:30 Lector	Sue Boggs	Bob Errett	Kevin Reilly	Malcolm Sias
9:30 Worship Assistant	Tawnya Combs	Rebecca Brunetta	Kim Woodley	Dianna Marusko



Altar Guild for June includes Dianna Marusko, Carolyn Hanzel, Cindy Bell, and Sue Ross.



Answers to trivia questions:

- A1: Honey A7: 1970
- A2: Reykjavik A8: Diamond
- A3: Eight A9: A pride
- A4: Michelangelo A10: Minnie Mouse
- A5: Claude Monet A11: 162 feet
- A6: Dino

Volunteers Needed!
**To set-up and clean-up
 for outdoor worship
 in the park.**

JUNE NOISY OFFERING is for ST. VLADIMIR'S FOR UKRAINE

The Youth Group Project of St. Vladimir Ukrainian Catholic Church, Arnold, PA will benefit Emmanuel Youth Group of the Blessed Martyr Josaphat Kolsylovsky in Stryi, Ukraine.

The Ukrainian city, Stryi, population 59,000 is located in the foothills of the Carpathian Mountains. This has become a destination for mostly women and children fleeing the war-torn areas of their country.

The Youth Group of St. Vladimir in Arnold is raising funds for the Blessed Martyr Youth Group in Stryi. The Youth in Ukraine will use the funds to give humanitarian aid to these refugees. The youth have helped with things like distribution of food, clothing, haircuts, a candle making class, and are planning a day camp for the refugee children this summer. The Blessed Martyr Youth are also helping to minister to people who have lost family members and children orphaned by the war.



Registration for Summer Camp 2026 has begun. Please visit www.lutherlyn.com for dates, prices, details, and registration.

First time campers get \$100 off with coupon code "FIRST". Visit lutherlyn.com/first for details.

For additional information, contact the camp office at 724-865-2161 or registrar@lutherlyn.com.

First Lutheran offers Camperships to help defray the cost of camp. Register with Lutherlyn, then let the church office know to send the campership to Lutherlyn.



Saturday Worship In the Park

Weather permitting

Worship in the Park is back!

This summer we will once again have worship in the park. It will be on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays in June, July, and August. These services will be at 6:00 pm.

This is casual worship in the park (or the Fellowship Hall if necessary). Please bring your favorite camp chair and dress for the outdoors. Hope to see you there!

Plan to stay after worship on June 13th for sloppy joes and other goodies and keep an eye out for more fellowship opportunities in July and August.

***"Gracious is the Lord and righteous;
our God is full of compassion"***

Psalm 116:5



Trex Recycling Challenge Plastic Patrol



Everyone is now a part of the Plastic Patrol of First Lutheran Church. Keep bringing in your plastic bags, etc. so we can **keep it out of our landfills** and get a *chance(s) each quarter to win a Trex bench for our park.

Totals to date:

Oct-Dec. 2025 166 pounds

Jan-Mar. 2026 253 pounds

Apr – Jun 2026 131 pounds (as of May 13, 2026)

Grand total to date: 550 pounds

In the current quarter, we need another 119 pounds by June 30th to get 1 entry in a random drawing to win a bench or another 369 pounds for 2 entries, etc.

LET'S KEEP RECYCLING THAT PLASTIC!!!

**for each 250 pounds of plastic collected per quarter, one entry into a random drawing to win and choose a bench or one of 4 other prizes.*

Stewardship: All Things Great and Small

“In ordinary life we hardly realize that we receive a great deal more than we give, and that it is only with gratitude that life becomes rich.” -- Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Because God is the Creator of all good things, because God loves us wholly and without condition, because God is full of grace, we respond in gratitude. We are freed by God to live our lives abundantly, to see all that we are and all that we have as pure gift. God’s love is pure gift.

How could we respond with anything other than gratitude? Unless we get confused and begin to believe that we ourselves have done or said something that merits God’s love. It is impossible to lack gratitude in light of all that God has done for us, unless of course, we buy into the notion that we somehow deserve all that we have because we’ve earned it.

God is God, even when we think we are. God is God, despite our fears and our doubts. God is the faithful one in this relationship. God holds fast to us, no matter what. And God’s people have needed to be reminded of that in every generation.

This message is excerpted from “Faith Reflections – Gratitude” by Megan Jones in the July 2012 Café online magazine. Today we commemorate Dietrich Bonhoeffer, theologian, 1945. Used with permission. Learn more about Daily Grace at welca.org/dailygrace.

Financial Update Through March 2026		
Giving		
2026	2025	Budget
\$76,088	\$76,720	\$85,335
Expense		
2026	2025	Budget
\$128,491	\$160,907	\$159,665



HONOR FATHER’S With a gift to Re-member

Once again for Father's Day (June 21st) members of the Christian Outreach Team suggest a fitting way to honor and remember your/any father. Re-member is a non-profit organization serving the Lakota population living on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. Re-member was established in 1998 to focus on ways to improve the lives on the reservation through various building and growing projects, as well as gathering and distributing goods to those in need. You can honor your father(s) with a gift to Re-member in any amount. Your gift will help provide much needed supplies to this area, considered one of the poorest in our country. A member of the Christian Outreach Team will be in the Education Building after worship services on Sunday, June 7th, and Sunday, June 14th for you to make your gifts. A team member will also be available after Worship in the Park on Saturday, June 13th. You may also make gifts during the week through the church office. Write a check payable to First Lutheran Church (or you can give cash). Please write Father’s Day on the memo line and place it in an envelope and write Father’s Day on the outside of the envelope.

Please include the following information:

Name(s) of father(s) you are honoring/remembering:

Given by: _____

SUMMER FOOD DRIVE

During the summer months, the Christian Outreach Committee will be collecting nonperishable items for our Emergency Food Cupboard. These items will be used to assist many individuals and families in our community.

We have also seen an increased need for personal care items. Anything you are able to provide is greatly appreciated!

June is “Protein Month”: Suggested items are:

Peanut Butter

Canned meats (tuna, chicken, etc.)

Beans

June Personal Care: toilet paper (wrapped single roll or small 4-pack), Kleenex, paper towels (single roll)

July is “Carb Month”: Suggested items are:

Pasta / pasta sauce

Pouch / Box sides (pasta, rice, potato, stuffing, etc.)

Mac & Cheese

Crackers (saltines, etc.)

July Personal Care: Shampoo, Body Wash or Bar Soap, Deodorant

August is “Canned Food Month”: Items especially needed are:

Soup

Fruit

Canned pasta (SpaghettiOs, etc.)

August Personal Care: Toothpaste, Toothbrush (single or 2-pack), dish liquid, laundry detergent (small size)

A basket is located in the education building foyer for your donations.

Please **check the expiration dates** before donating, as we cannot distribute expired items in the Emergency Food bags. Thank you!



Message for Thrivent Financial Members

At the first of each year, Thrivent members are given Thrivent Cash Dollars to direct to charitable organizations.

When you are considering where to spend your Cash Dollars, please consider giving your gift to the General Fund of First Lutheran Church. Thrivent Financial considers our congregation and any committee a valid recipient for Cash Dollars. Call (800-847-4836) say Thrivent Choice or email fraternal@thrivent.com.



Zion's Women of the ELCA invite you to join us in a three-part Bible Study from Gather Magazine entitled "I am Worthy." This three-part Bible Study will help us define who we are, what we can be, and what we do in the world in light of our God given giftedness, identities, and relationships. We will meet the second Wednesday of each month: June 10, July 8, and August 12 at Zion's

located at the corner of Pennsylvania Avenue and Second Street in downtown Greensburg. Use the Second Street door (there is one step). Doors will open at 5:30 PM for light refreshments and fellowship to be followed by the Bible Study from 6 to 7 PM.

Each month we will collect "\$Change\$ for a Change" to support our Synod Women's Organizations (SWO) designated outreach, Reagan's Journey. Their mission is to meet the needs of disabled children who require specialized equipment. They are requesting financial donations so they can support families and assist them in acquiring what each child needs. Bring your \$change\$ to be placed in a piggy bank. It will be taken to the Fall Retreat at Lutherlyn which will then be given to the folks at Reagan's Journey.

First's Pastors 1784 - Present



Find the following words in the puzzle.

Words are hidden ↑ and ↓ and → and ← and ↘

BOERSTLER
BRUEGEL
COMBS
GRIFFITHSTULL
HEAGY
HESS
KUNZMAN
LUTEGE

MACLAUGHLIN
MARTIN
MECHLING
NUENBERGER
PFEIFER
RITZ
SCANLON
SHINDLER

SMITH
STECK
TOPERZER
VAYDA
WILLIAMS
YOUNT



Are you full of useless information that you and others will find interesting? Come share your knowledge at Team Trivia Night with others from First Lutheran.

Thursday, June 18 at Pizza Sienna in Greensburg

Trivia Begins at 7PM.

Dinner 6PM. Everyone is responsible for buying his/her own dinner.

Contact person – RSVP to Teresa Graziotto by Monday, June 8th (724) 331 – 7134 or grazebear@gmail.com

Sample Trivia Questions for Warm-Up!!!!

**Answers will be published on another page in the newsletter.*

Q1: What is the only food that can never go bad?

Q2: What is the capital of Iceland?

Q3: How many planets are in our solar system?

Q4: Which artist painted the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel?

Q5: Which artist is famous for painting water lilies?

Q6: What is the name of the pet dinosaur on The Flintstones?

Q7: When was Earth Day first celebrated?

Q8: What is the hardest natural substance on Earth?

Q9: What is a group of lions called?

Q10: Who is Mickey Mouse's girlfriend?

Q11: How tall is First Lutheran – from Main Street to the top of the Steeple?

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 6:00 Execs	3 FOOD/HEART Noon	4	5	6
7 9:30 Worship NOISY OFFERING	8	9 6:00 Council	10 FOOD/HEART Noon	11	12	13 Worship in the Park 6 pm Picnic to follow.
14 9:30 Worship	15 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	16	17 FOOD/HEART Noon	18 FOOD BANK	19	20
21 9:30 Worship	22	23 NEWSLETTER FOLDING	24 FOOD/HEART Noon 6:30 Property	25	26	27 Worship in the Park 6 pm
28 9:30 Worship	29	30				



Beginning **Sunday, June 7**, there will be just one service at 9:30 AM.

Worship in the Park on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of June, July, and August at 6:00 PM.

There will be no Sunday Church School during the summer months. SCS will resume **September 13** with Rally Recreation Day

SAVE THE DATE

**Bowling August 2nd
at Noon**

Main Bowling

**Look for more details in
the July newsletter.**