

FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
246 South Main Street
Greensburg, Pennsylvania 15601-3183
T: 724-834-1457
F: 724-834-1469
felchurch.org

PASTOR..... Larry Kemp
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC.....Marvin Huls
CHURCH TREASURER..... Patti Sias
OFFICE MANAGER..... Patricia Pluck
OFFICE SECRETARY.....Susan Woodcox
CUSTODIAN..... Jaison Smith

CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Merle Baker
Rebecca Brunetta President
Bob Errett
Suzy Flory
Jeanne Kiss
Dianna Marusko
Joan Orr
Sue Ross
Brandie Saraceni Vice President
Amy Schultz
Kim von Schlichten
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.
Wednesday Worship 6:00 PM

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**

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FAX 724-834-1469

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October 2018

Celebrating 501 Years Personally

Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

“Day of Reformation” Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Page 59

Last year, Lutherans celebrated the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther nailing his “95 Theses” to the Cathedral door in Wittenberg in 1517. Celebrations were conducted throughout the world, in our local area and right here at First. One year later at the end of the month, as we always do, we mark the last Sunday in the month to observe that moment in the life of the Church, and this year, we will not do it with the national and regional hoopla as with last.

How will we celebrate this year? We tend to see the Reformation historically and celebrate it as a moment of reformation within the life of the Church for the Church as an institution. But do we ever consider the implications for ourselves and for our daily lives? As I considered the two proposed prayers of the day in our hymnal, I was drawn to the language in the one above because it is personal. It blesses the people with the gift of the Holy Spirit and asks for God’s comfort, strength and peace. It understands the on-going reformation and renewal that is to be part of our life with God. Perhaps this year, we can celebrate 501 years personally by receiving the gift we ask for in the prayer above and then living what it grants.

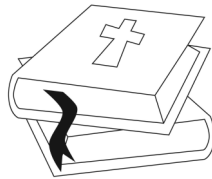
Be blessed,
Pastor Larry Kemp

BIBLE PRESENTATION, OCTOBER 21

The Bible says, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." (Psalm 119:105)

When children are Baptized, parents promise to place the Holy Scriptures in their child's hands. We, the people of First Lutheran, accompany that promise with our pledge to support parents in raising their children in the Christian faith.

On October 21, at both services, these promises will merge as age appropriate Bibles will be presented to our three/four year olds, our third, fourth and seventh graders. We pray that the hands that receive these Bibles will often open them with excitement and intrigue as they come to know the one whom the pages cradle, Jesus Christ, our Lord.



CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS, NOVEMBER 4 AND 18

Brief congregational meetings will precede worship services on November 5th and 19th for the purpose of nominating and electing congregation council members.

On November 5th nominations will be received. Balloting and/or elections will follow two weeks later at the Sunday, November 19th meeting.



FIRLU HAS HEARD...

-that as of August 25th our offering receipts are \$9,872; last year they were \$12,416.

--that registrations are being accepted for the 2018-2019 term of the First Lutheran Preschool. Classes are offered for children ages 3 and 4. Please speak to Barb Krunszynsky or call the church office for more information.

-that congratulations are offered to Nick and Erika Colonna on the birth of their daughter, Kinsley Elizabeth, September 8, 2018.

-that assistance is greatly needed the third Thursday of the month by 8:00 AM to unload the truck and sort groceries for Food Pantry distribution.

-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 19th. Please be prompt. You may submit your articles to office@felchurch.org.

-that Continental Breakfast is available in the fellowship hall between services. Grab some coffee, tea, juice, yogurt, or pastries and join us. If you would like to help, speak to Sue Boggs or call the church office.

-that the JAVA TABLE will be open in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, October 21 between worship services. Fair Trade coffees, teas and chocolates will be available for purchase. Please contact the church office if you would like any of the Fair Trade products before them.

See you at worship,
FIRLU

FIRST LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL

Whoever welcomes a little child like this in My name welcomes me.

Matthew 18:5

Once again, the sound of children’s laughter and footsteps blesses our church. Monday through Friday the sanctuary lights are on and our little ones are learning that they are special and loved. Loved by their families, loved by Jesus, and loved by God.

Our Bible lesson for the month of September was “Jesus Blesses the Children.” The first day of preschool began with our pre-schoolers, parents, grandparents and caregivers being welcomed into our sanctuary. Pastor Larry led us in prayer, blessing our little ones, their backpacks, their parents (some in tears), grandparents, caregivers and Miss Cindy and Miss Barb.



Downloaded from istockphoto.com. When parents brought their children to Him, He took them in His arms and blessed them.

Thank you to the congregation for prayers and generous support of our Preschool Bus. The red and green apples provide a year full of learning opportunities, social and emotional development, and happy memories.

Don't you see that children are God's best gift?...His generous legacy?

Psalm 127:3



BACK TO SCHOOL BUS” NEEDS YOUR HELP

Our Preschool Bus is parked in the education foyer. It contains green apple post-it note suggestions for supplies needed for this year’s preschool classes.

If you are willing to help, please remove a green apple sticker with a financial gift suggestion. You may place your gift in the offering plate or turn it into the office and we will purchase the item.

Our little ones and their teachers appreciate your gifts!

AND WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?

You are invited to an Ecumenical Fall Hymn Festival, “*And Who is My Neighbor,*” on Reformation Sunday afternoon, ***October 28 at 4:00*** here in the sanctuary. Come join together as we explore through words and music the theme “and who is my neighbor?” In addition to hymns, readings and special music, there will be a combined choir anthem.



WHO AND WHERE IS MY NEIGHBOR?

The Evangelism Team is asking everyone in attendance on Sunday morning to be aware of those sitting nearby. If someone is new, please be sure to welcome him or her by introducing yourself and making an introduction to the pastor, if possible. If someone you know is missing, please take a moment through the week to give him or her a call or send an email

MATCHING GIFT PROGRAM 2018

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 Social Ministry Activating Team. 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 is met.

Individual organizations are only eligible to receive up to \$2,000 from the matching gifts program until November 11, 2018. If there are any matching funds money remaining after November 11, any size gift will be matched until the program budget is exhausted. The \$10,000 in matching funds is budgeted from our 2017 Trust Fund distribution.

We confess:

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

Serving At First In October 2018

10/7

10/14

10/21

10/28

ACOLYTES

Reese Woodley
Cade Cavanaugh

Reese Woodley
Jacob Julian

Erik Hanzel
Tyler Miller

Erik Hanzel
Mia Saraceni

ASSISTING MINISTERS

Rocco Marusko

Pat Yost

Rebecca Brunetta

Dianna Marusko

LECTORS

Mark Barnhart
Joan Orr

Sherry Menz
Amy Schultz

Jean Miller
Rebecca Brunetta

Kim Nicassio
Dianna Marusko

AV MINISTRY TEAM

Al Danilko

Drew Erdman

Dwight Miller
Lexi Hahn
Scott Hahn

Liz Rowe
Spencer Irwin

Delivery

Betty Mohney

Cheryl Lucas

Helen Marie
Flinner

8:15

USHERS

Tom Gockel - chief
Becky Blank
Brian Erdman

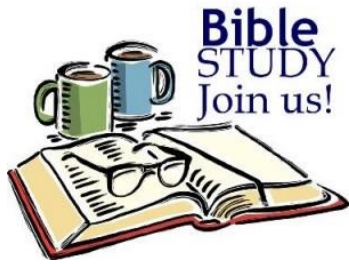
10:00

USHERS

Barry Attenberger-
chief
Bev Attenberger
Al Danilko
Dianna Marusko

ALTAR GUILD

Kim Woodley
- coordinator
Robin Weyandt
Babs Pascarella
Sherry Menz



Weekly Bible Study Begins

Monday, October 8, 2018

7:00 PM

Fellowship Hall

Topic: The Book of Acts

Teachers:

Bill Griffith

Pastor Larry

Joan Orr

Bring your Bibles and together we'll study the adventures of the early Christian Church.

LIVING LUTHERAN SUBSCRIPTIONS

LIVING LUTHERAN, the ELCA church magazine, is provided for every active home of the congregation (if desired) through the "Every Home Plan". The magazine is useful in assisting members in their daily walk of faith and provides information to our witness throughout the nation and world. We are in the process of updating our current list. If you would like your name added or removed from our list, please call the church office.

This plan provides a reduced rate of \$8.95 per subscription. If you wish to help defray the expense to the congregation, please use a gold pew envelope and mark your donation as such. Your gifts are much appreciated!

Opportunities to Serve at Sunday Worship

On Sunday morning, we have a number of opportunities to serve our Lord and the congregation at First. Those opportunities are:

Altar Guild

Assisting Minister

Choir

Communion Assistant

Greeter

Lector

Sound System Operator Usher

All of these are valuable parts of our time in worship. We have a particular need for ushers and people to run the sound system.

If this sounds like something you might be called to do, please speak with the pastor.

We **URGENTLY** need help recording the weekly service and editing the recording to CD. Training will be provided. Please call the church at 724-834-1457 or email the church office at office@felchurch.org, if you would like to volunteer. This is a vital ministry for those unable to attend services and your help would be greatly appreciated.

We are looking for individuals to deliver the CD's from Sunday worship to some of our shut-ins. This would be approximately once per month. If you are interested in this ministry, please call the church office or use the back of the prayer request card and place it in the offering plate.

What's Next?

(An update on the call process)

We have met several times in the last few weeks.

We are moving forward with the Ministry Site Profile and will be completing it within the next few weeks.

Thank you to everyone who has been helping us with compiling the information we need to complete the survey.

God bless us all,

The Call Committee

WEEKLY EMAILS: Are you receiving the weekly email blasts? If not, please call the office so we can add your name to the list. We will not add anyone to the weekly email list unless they specifically request it even if we already have your email address.

ANOTHER WORSHIP OPPORTUNITY AT FIRST!

We are offering a worship service at 6 pm on Wednesday evenings. The service is a spoken worship service with Holy Communion. It is not intended to replace either of the Sunday services but is offered either as an additional worship opportunity for those who may not be able to worship with us on Sunday or those who might like an additional opportunity to worship during the week.



New for young teens and children:

be brave little one – by Marianne Richmond – this delightful children's story honors and celebrates the power of courage in every child. Perfect for cheering someone on, this story affirms how bravery can show up in all different ways!

The Time of the Church by Suzanne RichterKessing – In the first of three books from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, you and your child are about to embark on a journey through Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter and the Season after Pentecost. These are the seasons of the church year, each book with its own music, symbols, colors and Bible stories. Watch for changes in the color of the altar cloth, a change of banners, the draping of the cross or the lighting of a special candle.

Across the Border by Arleta Richardson – Book #4 in the Beyond the Orphan Train series for young teens. Life on the Rush farm is not easy. Even so, over the past four years, Ethan Cooper and his siblings have grown to feel they belong with their adoptive family. When Mr. Rush makes an announcement that the family is moving to Mexico, Ethan fears any changes in his life this will cause.

Based on a true story, this conclusion to the Beyond the Orphan Train series reminds us that the same God who is with us from the start never lets us go.

October Library News

Be sure to visit our church library on the second floor of the education building! New materials are added each month, along with those added to our children's library. All church members and their families are welcome to stop by and "check something out".



New in our library this month:

I Can Only Imagine (DVD) - Dennis Quaid and Trace Adkins star in this inspiring true story behind MercyMe's beloved hit song. Running from a troubled home life and a broken relationship, Bart Millard found escape in music. Hitting the road in a decrepit tour bus, Bart and his band MercyMe, set out on an amazing journey none of them could ever have imagined, in this uplifting, music-filled movie that beautifully illustrates the power of forgiveness and God's love.

Last Ounce of Courage (DVD) - After his son's death defending America, Bob Revere loses his passion for life. But when his grandson is threatened with suspension for bringing a Bible to school, he takes a stand for freedom and reintroduces Christ into Christmas. Accused of violating the constitution, can Bob reunite the faith of this small community or is it too late?

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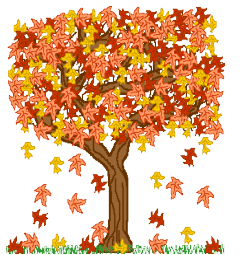


NEWS

The Ruth Circle met on September 13th and began planning the year. We have scheduled our meeting dates and set up programs and, of course, our delicious desserts. Our next meeting will be Thursday, October 11th at 7:30 in the church parlor.

We have decided to do the cleaning buckets as our project again. These are distributed locally and nationally as needed. Given the way the weather has been acting, they will be used. We are considering other projects and will determine what they will be at our upcoming meetings.

FALL CLUSTER MEETING - Saturday, October 6th at Good Shepherd Church. The topic will be presented by Kelli Connolly on Hospice/Palliative Care. Registration begins at 9:00AM. Reservations are due by October 1. If you are interested, forms are located in the WELCA mailbox in the church office.



October 2018

ANIMAL BLESSING at FIRST



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 FOOD/HEART Noon 6:00 Worship 7:00 Fellowship	4 6:15 Bells 7:00 Choir	5	6
7 8:15 Worship 9:30 SCS 10:45 Worship	8 7:00 Bible Study	9 6:00 Personnel	10 FOOD/HEART Noon 6:00 Worship	11 6:15 Bells 7:00 Choir 7:30 Ruth Circle	12	13 10:00 AM Animal Blessing
14 8:15 Worship 9:30 SCS 10:45 Worship	15 7:00 Bible Study	16 6:30 Finance 7:00 Christian Ed/ Youth	17 FOOD/HEART Noon 6:00 Worship	18 FOOD PANTRY 6:15 Bells 7:00 Choir 7:30 Worship & Music	19 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	20
21 8:15 Worship 9:30 SCS 10:45 Worship JAVA TABLE 9:30 Soc. Ministry	22 7:00 Bible Study	23	24 FOOD/HEART Noon 6:00 Worship	25 6:15 Bells 7:00 Choir	26	27
28 8:15 Worship 9:30 SCS 10:45 Worship 9:30 Soc. Ministry JAVA TABLE 4:00 Hymn Festival	29 6:00 Executive 7:00 Bible Study	30 NEWLETTER FOLDING	31 FOOD/HEART Noon 6:00 Worship 6:30 Property			

On Saturday, October 13 at 10:00 AM, First will have its second annual animal blessing in the park. You are invited to bring your pet (animal or a picture of it) as we offer God's blessing for its place in your life and commemorate the work of Francis of Assisi in the life of the Church. If you do bring your pet or animal, it cannot be a threat to the safety of people or other animals and needs to be completely within your control either on a leash or in some type of cage. And of course, we ask that you clean up after it. If you have any questions, please contact pastor.