

FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

246 South Main Street
Greensburg, Pennsylvania
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www.felchurch.org

Rev. Douglas M. Heagy
Rev. Marleen Griffith-Stull
Mr. Jack Delk
Mr. Marvin J. Huls

Pastor
Pastor
Vicar
Director of Music

WELCOME to First Lutheran Church! We are happy that you decided to worship with us. If you are visiting just for today, we pray that God will be with you on your journey. If you are seeking a church home, we would be happy to welcome you into our church community. If you are interested in joining with the First Family, call the church office...and please worship with us again.

ALL BAPTIZED worshipers who confess the presence of Christ in the bread and wine of communion are invited to commune. Children are invited to come forward for a blessing. Communicants please complete a communion card.

CHILDREN'S BULLETINS providing activities based on today's scripture readings are available in the narthex.

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP BAGS containing soft Biblical figures and coloring books are available for young children to use during worship. Speak to an usher if your child is interested.

A STAFFED NURSERY (available at 10:45 worship) is located on the second floor of the education building.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 6, 2009

8:15 AM and 10:45 AM

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

GATHERING

Preludes and Silent Prayer

Confession and Forgiveness

The assembly stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

The assembly kneels. Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God, **have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

Hymn "Hark, the Glad Sound"

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Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

Litany

Our season of Advent continues. Four thousand years of waiting for the Messiah, commemorated by our worship and the lighting of candles.

We join with a hopeful throng in these symbols of our hope and faith and signs of God's love.

We are a people of hope. Last Sunday, the frail light of a single candle dared to pierce through the darkness and desolation of sin.

Hope lives in us and will abide in us.

Today, we will light the candle of peace.

This light, too, must brave great darkness.

In an age when people so seldom find peace within themselves, and when all the earth stands under threat of total annihilation, we light a fire called peace.

Peace that is not merely the absence of war and conflict, but peace that is the fullness of blessing for all. Peace for which we dare to hope.

The Christ comes to bring peace to those who have been separated from God and one another.

In the name of that Child born so long ago, we will light the candle of peace.

In following Christ's teachings, we nurture our hope for peace in our worship today as we proclaim the Christ's feast of victory.

Refrain
Assisting minister



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain
has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Prayer of the Day (Celebrate insert)
The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Let us pray... **Amen**

WORD

First Reading Malachi 3:1-4 (Celebrate insert)
R/Thanks be to God!

Children's Message

Lighting of the Second Advent Candle
"O Come, O Come Emmanuel" (verse 2) # 257

Psalmody Luke 1:68-79 (Celebrate insert)
(Read responsively, 8:15; sung, choir and congregation, 10:45)

Second Reading Philippians 1:3-11 (Celebrate insert)
R/Thanks be to God!

Gospel Acclamation
*(first Alleluia: cantor/choir; second Alleluia: congregation;
verse: cantor/choir; final Alleluia: congregation)*

Gospel Luke 3:1-6
R/ Glory to you, O Lord. R/ Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon **"Prepare for the Lord"**

Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation**

**he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven**

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayers of the Church (Celebrate insert)

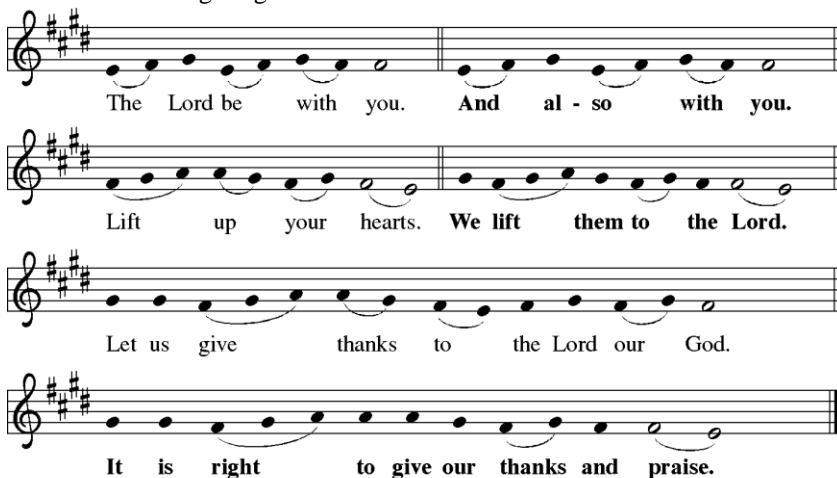
The Peace

THE MEAL

Offering
Doxology
Offertory Prayer

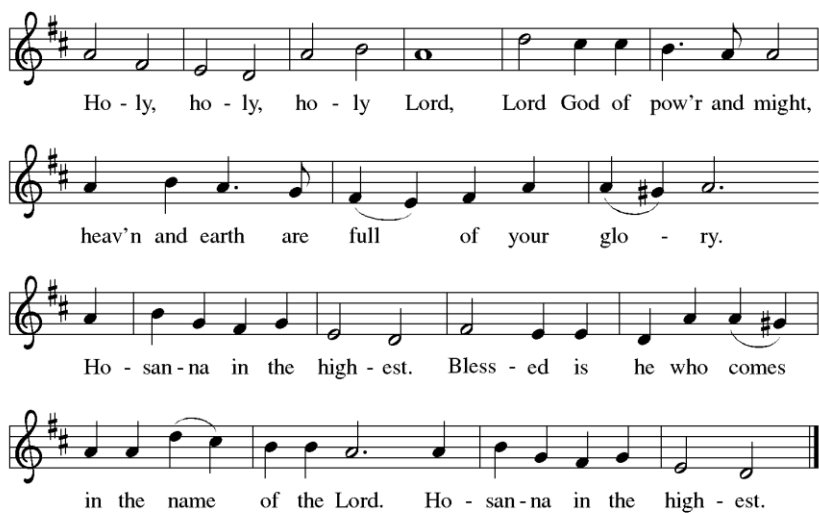
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The Great Thanksgiving



The Lord be with you. And al - so 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...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Lord's Prayer

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

Table Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in eternal life. **Amen**

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, almighty God,
that you have refreshed us
through the healing power of this gift of life.
In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift,
in faith toward you
and in fervent love toward one another;
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

HYMN "Joy to the World"

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

IN THE TIME BEFORE WORSHIP TODAY, the congregation is encouraged to read each introduction to the scripture readings in preparation for the hearing of God's word.

THE ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God and in memory of Evelyn M. Watts by her family. **CHANCEL FLOWERS** are given in memory of Katherine E. Newman by Kathryn Taylor.

ACOLYTES are Parker Trent, Nathan Flory, and Tyler Knatz.

THE NURSERY for December is in the care of Sue Gogol. Serving today are Sue Mains and Shelby Erdman. Children under the age of 4 are welcome.

TAPE MINISTRY is provided by Liz Rowe. Tapes will be delivered tomorrow by Cheryl Lucas.

LECTORS are Sherry Menz and Shirley Huls.

ALTAR GUILD for December includes Margie Albright, Gwen Irwin, Ruth Lightcap, and Lorraine Lukacs. Debbie Delisi is coordinator.

USHERS for December include at 8:15 Dwight Miller - chief, Denny and Becky Blank, and Lloyd Fait, Jr.; at 10:45 Rick Druschel - chief, Beverly and Barry Attenberger, and Don Stull.

GREETERS are at 8:15 Vicar Jack - north door, Pastor Marleen - center, Pastor Doug - south door, Amy Erdman - choir door; at 10:45 Vicar Jack - north door, Pastor Marleen - center, Pastor Doug - south door, Vonnie Fleege - choir door.

MEMBERS LIGHTING THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE today will be Dianna and Rocco Marusko.

THE CONGREGATION is reminded to respect the concerns of members who cannot shake hands during the flu season when we share the peace in worship. A verbal greeting of peace can serve as a substitute.

JUNIOR CHOIR rehearses at 9:00 this morning in the Junior Choir Room, 2nd floor of the education building. Welcome!

CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST is available this morning and every Sunday, 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall. Join us.

SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL CLASSES provide two opportunities for discussion for adults. "Living the Faith" is facilitated by Daisy Shields. A discipline on making Christ central in your life, "In Pursuit of Jesus" is facilitated by Dianna Marusko.

OFFERING ENVELOPES for 2010 are available in the fellowship hall. Envelopes will NOT be mailed this year, so please help us by taking envelopes to a neighbor or family member.

THE SETON HILL CHRISTMAS CONCERT will be presented today at 1:30 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. in the chapel on the Hill. Admission is free. Marvin Huls conducts.

F.L.Y. AND JUNIOR F.L.Y. meet today, 5-7:30 p.m. The youth will gather for a pot luck dinner so bring something to share. Senior F.L.Y. will have their goofy gift exchange (bring a gift, \$5 or less) after the meal.

RUTH BIBLE STUDY meets Monday, 7:00 p.m.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS this week include Social Ministry, Mon., 7:00 p.m., Youth Ministry, Tues., 7:00 p.m. and Evangelism, Wed., 7:00.

FOOD FROM THE HEART, our weekday luncheon ministry, continues this Wednesday at noon.

THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY meets at 10:30 a.m.

CHOIRS rehearse Thursday. Bell Choir meets at 6:15 p.m.; adult choir meets at 7:00 p.m.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING is next Sunday. FLY invites the First Family to join them for a light lunch before caroling. During the lunch Hannah Heagy will share more information about FLY's year long project to sponsor a well through Water to Thrive in an Ethiopian Village. Hannah and other FLY members learned about this ministry during the National Youth Gathering. After lunch we will travel to some of our shut-ins for Christmas caroling, returning to the church late afternoon.

OUR MISSION VOLUNTEERS thank all of those who made contributions for building supplies in Mississippi. Anyone who would like to make a contribution, please use a gold pew envelope and mark it as such. Your gifts are greatly appreciated by our team and those people in Gulfport, Mississippi whom we are serving.

CARING TREE "ANGELS" are available on the tree in the education building foyer. If you would like to shop for a needy child, please take an angel ornament and write your name and phone number next to your child's number on the clipboard provided. Wrapped gifts with the ornament including the child's information should be returned to the church office by Sunday, Dec. 13.

THRIVENT IS HELPING homeless families and children this holiday season. The following items will fill one bag per homeless family...

1 bottle of shampoo, 1 bar of soap, 1 deodorant (non gender please), 1 dental floss, 1 tube of toothpaste, 1 tube of lotion, 4 toothbrushes, 1 liquid hand sanitizer. If you are able to assist with this project, place your items in the box provided in the education building foyer.

THE “TREASURER’S BOOKS” will close with the December 27 offerings and deposit. Offerings received after that date will not be deposited until January and recorded as 2010 offerings. Your generous year end gifting is needed if we are to meet our ministry goals.

IF YOUR LOVED ONE IS HOSPITALIZED please notify the pastors or call the church office. Due to the new HIPA rules, the hospital does not always notify us of members’ admissions.

PLEASE KEEP John Zuzarate, serving in Germany, in your prayers.

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE last Sunday was 220.