

FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

Rev. Douglas M. Heagy

Pastor

Rev. Marleen Griffith-Stull

Pastor

Mr. Jack Delk

Vicar

Mr. Marvin J. Huls

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.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 13, 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 "Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers"

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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

God is making the final preparations for an amazing thing! Now is the Advent of the long-awaited Messiah, our bringer of hope, our Prince of Peace, our leader of love.

We wait, we prepare, we make straight the way.

We seek to celebrate the coming of Christ in our worship by lighting the Advent candles.

We are a people of hope, a people of peace, a people of love.

At first there was the frail light of a single candle of hope, daring to pierce through the darkness of despair and sin.

Then there was the candle of peace, the gentle and persistent fire, the one that calls out the violent forces and lets in God's deep and tranquil Spirit.

This day we will light the candle of love. No other word so adequately captures the spirit and goal of our faith. No other word so completely describes what we know of our God.

For God so loved the world.

God so loved the world that a child was given. A savior in the form of love incarnate.

We gather in worship in Christian love.

We give thanks for love that passes understanding, and await God's pervasive and enduring love once more this Christmas season as we join our voices to sing God's glory.

Glory to God



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we



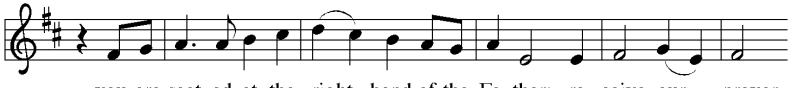
wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.



For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.

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

WORD

First Reading Zephaniah 3:14-20 (Celebrate insert)
R/Thanks be to God!

Children's Message
Lighting of the Third Advent Candle
"O Come, O Come Emmanuel" (verse 3) # 257

Psalm 12 (Celebrate insert)
(Read responsively, 8:15; sung choir and congregation, 10:45)

Second Reading Philippians 4:4-7 (Celebrate insert)
R/Thanks be to God!

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

Gospel Luke 3:7-18
R/ Glory to you, O Lord. R/ Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon **"Lucy, Light, and Joy"**

Hymn of the Day "He Came Down" # 253

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

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Offertory Prayer

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.

O God, we give you thanks
that you have set before us this feast,
the body and blood of your Son.

By your Spirit strengthen us to serve all in need
and to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

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

HYMN “Hark, A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding!”

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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 Gladys Erickson by Gwen Irwin and family.

ACOLYTES are Alex McCanna, Nick Julian, and Kiley Julian.

THE NURSERY is in the care of Katie Sias and Abigail Delk. Children under the age of 4 are welcome.

TAPE MINISTRY is provided by Jeff Barnhart. Tapes will be delivered tomorrow by Judi Seanor.

LECTORS are Melissa Wisniewski and Garan Warren.

GREETERS are at 8:15 Pastor Doug - north door, Vicar Jack - center, Pastor Marleen - south door, Bonnie Rich - choir door: at 10:45 Pastor Doug - north door, Vicar Jack - center, Pastor Marleen - south door, Rick Druschel - choir door.

MEMBERS LIGHTING THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE today will be Dave and Sue Cobb and Mike and Sue Gogol.

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.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING is this afternoon. 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.

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.

MARY MARTHA CIRCLE will meet tomorrow, 10:00 a.m. in the fellowship hall for sewing and lunch.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE for January is tomorrow, Dec. 14.

REBEKAH CIRCLE meets Tuesday, 10:30 a.m. in the conference room.

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE meets Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.

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

FOOD PANTRY DISTRIBUTION is this Thursday. Volunteers are needed by 8:00 a.m. to unload the truck, sort groceries, and carry groceries to cars. Please lend a hand this holiday season.

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.

INTERN COMMITTEE meets next Sunday after 10:45 a.m. worship.

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” should be returned to the church office this morning. Thank you for being “an angel” and shopping for a needy child.

CHRISTMAS EVE will have two opportunities for candlelight worship. The 7:30 p.m. service is one of scripture readings and carols and includes a children’s message. The 11:00 p.m. Christ-Mass will include Word and Sacrament. “Oh, come let us adore Him!”

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.

BIBLE BOWL competition this year is based on the book of I Samuel. Interested youth in grades 7 – 12 (parents welcome, too) will meet briefly on Jan. 3 to assign teams and readings, and then begin studying on Jan. 10. Please use the sign up sheet on the foyer bulletin board if you wish to participate.

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 239.