



The Tower

A PUBLICATION OF **FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Leechburg, PA



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Our mission:

"We are a people called together into the life-transforming ministry of the Gospel, empowered to share our lives for the blessing of the world."

From the Pastor's Desk

Letting Go for Lent

Grace and peace to you!

Four years ago, the arrival of Lent nearly coincided with the arrival of the Covid-19 pandemic, which changed our world in ways we could not have imagined.

This Lent will be a season of transition for me and for our congregation. On Tuesday, March 5, I will be pastor of two congregations, as our partnership with Cross Roads Presbyterian Church takes effect.

For nearly a year, your congregation leaders and I have been in prayer and thoughtful congregation about this partnership. We believe this is the best way forward for our congregation, as well as a great opportunity to strengthen our Christian witness within the Leechburg community.

While I am excited about this new chapter in my ministry, there is also grief. Some will welcome the worship time change to 10:30 while some will not. It will be difficult for me to be absent from here at times so that I can be faithful to the people of Cross Roads. There will be many things I want to do which I will not have time to do. Thankfully, this church lives through the gifts of all its members, not just mine. We have tremendous leaders and dedicated volunteers whose works make this church what it is. I am thankful for Deb Smail, our administrator, whose talents have already proved to be a tremendous asset to our congregation. I will need your help running the livestream since I will not have much time to set everything up between services. I will also need your help planning and publicizing ministries for our children. Several of you have already stepped forward, and I thank God for you.

Change is never easy, but we will be together through this change. We are living out what Lent is all about: a journey of laying down and letting go so that we can become a new creation through the cross and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We are a church that is always being made new, and for that, I rejoice!

See you on Sunday,

+ *Pastor Jim*

VISIT US ONLINE AT WWW.SERVINGGODGRACEFULLY.NET



First Lutheran Church
Leechburg
Everyone Belongs!

EZRA & NEHEMIAH

THE PERILS AND PROMISE OF NEW BEGINNINGS



Photo by aji on Unsplash

WINTER BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday, February 7 at 6:30

You can also participate on Zoom by visiting zoom.us or calling (301) 715-8592 and entering meeting ID# 950-761-3304 .



FRIDAY, FEB. 2—6:30pm

January's movie is
Bee Movie!

There will be a light dinner and movie theater popcorn! Bring your friends! Everyone is welcome.

Presented under CVLI
License #5944303



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH PRESENTS

CHILI COOK-OFF

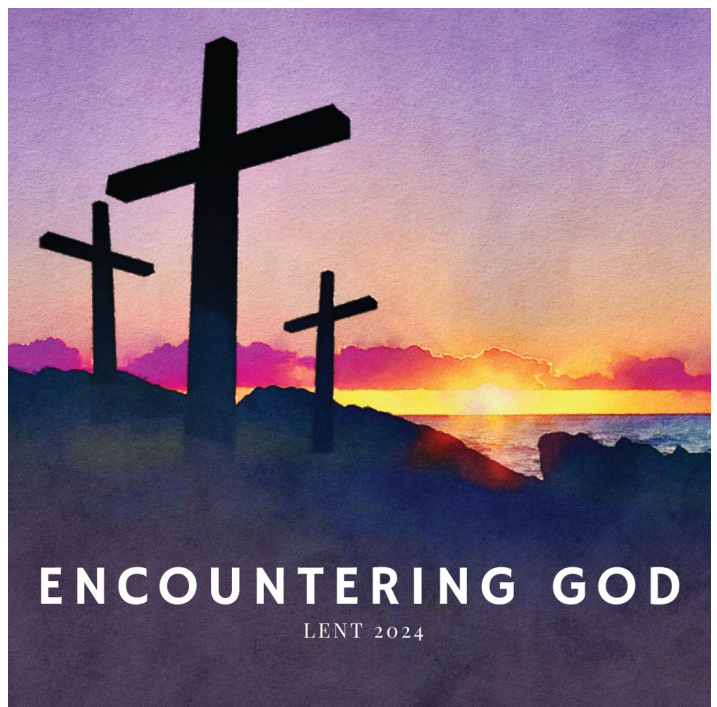
SAT. FEB 17 **BRING THE HEAT!** 12-2:00 PM

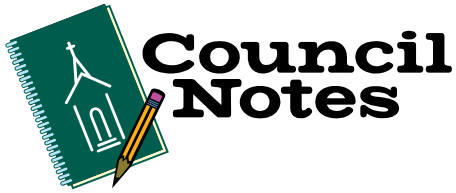
Prizes for the best chili!

358 Main St. Leechburg, PA
servinggodgracefully.net | 724-845-7518



Contact Doreen Smeal with questions (724-448-4188 or doreen.smeal@gmail.com)





Ministry Sharing Update

The Joint Ministries Council met on January 11, and a final draft of the ministry sharing agreement was forwarded to the SWPA Bishop's Office and the Kiskiminetas Presbytery for their approval. The agreement was adopted at the January 28 congregational meeting by a vote of 31-2. Pastor Jim will begin serving both congregations on Tuesday, March 5.

Chairlift Update

Karen and Tim Zimmerman donated an indoor

chairlift to the church, which will be installed in the stairwell between the main church building and the parish house. Additional electrical work must be completed before installation.

Bell Tower Update

Electrical work was completed by Old Ironsides Electrical, LLC at a cost of \$600.

Vacation Bible School

We will be teaming up with Hebron Lutheran, First United Methodist, and Cross Roads Presbyterian Churches to host VBS on June 17-21.

Worship Time Change

Our Sunday Worship Time will change to 10:30, effective February 11.



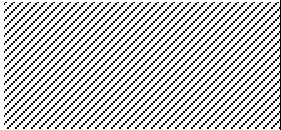
Birthdays and anniversaries are omitted from online postings to protect members' privacy



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FEBRUARY

Servants

	Assisting Ministers	Acolytes	Altar Guild	Counters	Food Pantry
4	John Smail	Jacob Boarts	Debbie Smail Michelle Baldesberger	Amanda Graham Sandy Smythe	Sandy Smythe
11	Jason Delp	Josey Smorey	Cheryl Nelson Carolyn Shaffer	Doreen Smeal Nathan Boarts	Lois Bowser
14	Andi McCool		Donna Crawford Sandi Kulick		
18	Alicia Szarek	Jillian Boarts	Lois Bowser Sandy Smythe	Alicia Szarek Margaret McKallip	Janis Hill
25	Nathan Boarts	Spencer Libengood	Janis Hill Diane Kuhn	David Moran Margaret McKallip	Terra Kardos



*Thank you
for voting
us THE
BEST
PLACE TO
WORSHIP!*





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ASH *Wednesday*

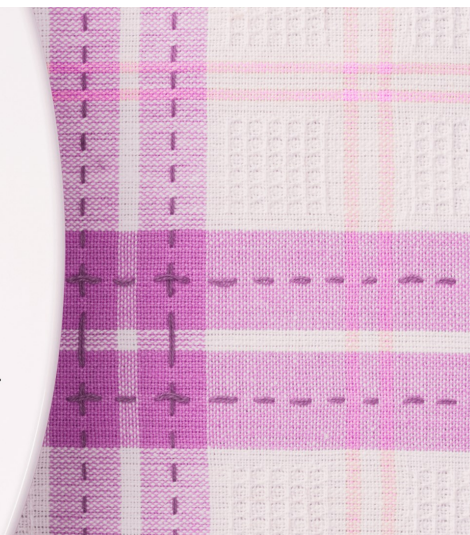
WORD & SACRAMENT 7:30 PM

Friday Lenten Lunches

11:45

at Cross Roads Community
Presbyterian Church

A freewill offering will be accepted



WEDNESDAYS *during Lent*

Soup Suppers - 6:00pm
Evening Prayer - 7:00pm

Meal sponsors are needed! Contact Sharlotte DeVere
(queenstitch@gmail.com) or the church office.

SERMON SERIES

**Feb. 4—5th Sunday after
Epiphany**

Beginning of the Good News

Psalm 122

Mark 6:1-29

**Feb 11—Transfiguration
Sunday**

Mark 8:27 – 9:8

Psalm 27:1-4

Feb 14—Ash Wednesday
Passion Prediction

Mark 9:30-37

Psalm 32:1-5

Feb. 18—1st Sunday of Lent
First Last and Last First

Mark 10:17-31

Psalm 19:7-10

**Feb. 25—2nd Sunday of
Lent**

Bartimaeus Healed

Mark 10:32-52

Psalm 34:11-14



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Give
ONLINE
EASY. FAST. SECURE.

Your gifts make a difference!

Please continue to give generously. To support our church with your offerings, visit our website at <http://www.servinggodgracefully.net> and click GIVE ONLINE. All major credit cards and e-checks are

[Monthly Sponsors]

Candle Oil Sponsor

Given by Richard Baker in memory of
Cheryl Baker

Bulletin Sponsor

available



The Clothing Closet

Saturday, February 17, 9:00—1:00

The Clothing Closet volunteers meet every Monday morning at 9am—12pm to sort clothing and keep things running smoothly. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Kathy Munko at (724) 845-8974 or by email at kathymunko@hotmail.com.

FOOD PANTRY



THE LITTLE FREE PANTRY NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT!

Support the ministry through monetary gifts marked "Little Free Pantry" or by donating the following non-perishable items: Pasta side dishes, Spaghetti, Pasta sauce (no glass, please), Instant potatoes, Pop Tarts, Macaroni and cheese boxes, Cereals (in single-serving size), Fruit cups, Pudding cups, Peanut butter, Snack crackers in individual packs, Tuna in cans or pouches, and Shelf-stable milk. Thank you for making a difference!



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get^CONNECTED



Like us on Facebook and stay connected with all that's happening in our church:

[facebook.com/servinggodgracefully](https://www.facebook.com/servinggodgracefully)

Join our Facebook Group **First Lutheran and Friends** to share prayer requests, communicate about events, and more!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/472072791043479>

Do you have something you would like to publish in the next newsletter? Contact the church office: **felc@salsgiver.com** or **724-845-7518**

The Tower deadline for the January newsletter is

Feb. 24



We are now on **You Tube**

Worship with us Live at 9:30 or catch up any time!

Subscribe to our channel to grow our livestream and spread the good word about our church!

youtube.com/@servinggodgracefully

Pastor James Arter's Office Hours

TUESDAY 9:00 AM—10:00 AM
WEDNESDAY 9:00 AM—12:00 PM
THURSDAY 9:00 AM—12:00 PM

Contact information:

Email: pr.jim@comcast.net

Office: 724-845-7518

Home: 724-212-7240

930 Wildlife Lodge Rd. Apt. 302

Lower Burrell, PA 15068

Parish Administrator: Deborah Smail

Office hours: Wednesdays 8--1

Church Treasurer: Ruth Sloan

rae_rae1963@yahoo.com

Council President: Sandy Smythe

mainesmythe@live.com



Want to read Pastor Jim's sermons?

Check out his BLOG online at jamesarter3.blogspot.com



Ink Cartridges

Bring your empty cartridges to the church and help us reduce the cost of office supplies!



February 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 ■ 9:30AM Worship ■ 10:45AM Contemporary Choir Rehearsal	29	30	31	1 ■ 11:00AM Clothing Closet Meeting ■ 6:00PM VBS Organizational Meeting	2 ■ 6:30PM Movie Night	3
4 ■ 8:30AM Chancel Choir Rehearsal ■ 9:30AM Worship ■ 10:45AM Council Meeting ■ 1:00PM Confirmation Class	5 ■ 9:00AM Clothes Sorting	6	7 ■ 6:30PM Bible study	8 ■ 6:00PM Joint Ministries Council	9	10
11 ■ 10:30AM Worship ■ 11:45AM Contemporary Choir Rehearsal	12 ■ 9:00AM Clothes Sorting	13	14 ■ 7:30PM Ash Wednesday Service	15	16 ■ 11:45AM Lenten Luncheon	17 ■ 9:00AM Clothing Closet Open ■ 12:00PM Chili Cookoff
18 ■ 10:30AM Worship ■ 11:45AM Chancel Choir Rehearsal ■ 1:00PM Confirmation Class	19 ■ 9:00AM Clothes Sorting	20	21 ■ 6:00PM Lenten Soup Supper ■ 7:00PM Lenten Evening Prayer	22	23 ■ 11:45AM Lenten Luncheon	24
25 ■ 10:30AM Worship ■ 11:45AM Contemporary Choir Rehearsal ■ 11:45AM Messy Church	26 ■ 9:00AM Clothes Sorting	27 ■ 8:00AM Food Bank Packing	28 ■ 9:30AM Food Bank Distribution ■ 6:00PM Food Bank Distribution ■ 6:00PM Lenten Soup Supper ■ 7:00PM Lenten Evening Prayer	29	1 ■ 11:45AM Lenten Luncheon ■ 6:30PM Movie Night	2

Date: 1/1



Thank You!

Thank you for all of your cards, gifts, and prayers for me and my family at Christmas! You are a blessing!

+Pastor Jim

Thank you for the beautiful gift basket.

-Sara Rupert

Easter EGG HUNT

Join us for a day of family fun as we search for colourful Easter eggs hidden throughout the park. With thousands of eggs to find, the hunt is on for the most eggs and the chance to win special prizes.

SATURDAY, MARCH 31 - 1PM
LEECHBURG-GILPIN PARK

REGISTER ONLINE: SERVINGGODGRACEFULLY.NET/EGGHUNT



TREASURER'S FINANCIAL SUMMARY FOR DECEMBER 2023

December 2023 Treasurer's Report:

Balance November 30, 2023	16,649.36
Receipts	18,375.83
Disbursements	(16,398.70)
Balance December 31, 2023	18,626.49

BREAKDOWN OF BALANCE:

	Balance 11/30/23	Receipts December	Disbursements December	Balance 12/31/23
Current	(83,337.86)	13,603.70	14,620.37	(84,354.53)
Building Fund	25.00	0.00	0.00	25.00
Kipp Trust Distribution & Interest	59,972.74	2,681.83	0.00	62,654.57
Benevolence	3,422.14	0.00	0.00	3,422.14
Reimbursables/Dedicated Account	2,551.02	548.80	462.90	2,636.92
Bell Tower Fund	19,650.28	220.00	0.00	19,870.28
Clothing Closet	3,896.98	483.50	411.44	3,969.04
Bush Trust	9,670.26	838.00	105.19	10,403.07
Tax Liability Accounts	798.80	0.00	798.80	0.00
<u>TOTALS</u>	16,649.36	18,375.83	16,398.70	18,626.49

December 2023 Abiding Gifts & Memorials Report: CD-Matures 9/18/24-MIF:

Balance 11/30/23	8,398.73	Balance 11/30/23	36,004.52
Receipts-Interest	2.85	Receipts-Interest	427.64
Balance 12/31/23	8,401.58	Balance 12/31/23	36,432.16

January - December 2023 FLC Mission Fund Report:

Balance 01/01/23	12,034.47
Receipts	5,175.00
Disbursements	(3,818.23)
Balance 12/31/23	13,391.24

Ruth Sloan
Treasurer





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First Std
U.S. Postage
PAID
City, ST
Permit # 000

358 Main St.

Leechburg, PA 15656

724-845-7518

Jesus loves...

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Worship SERVICE

Sundays—10:30

effective 2/11

Livestream on YouTube

youtube.com/@servinggodgracefully

Visit our website

www.servinggodgracefully.net

