

Seventh Sunday after Epiphany
February 23, 2025

WELCOME VISITORS

*We invite you to pick up a Visitor's Packet as you leave the service today.
Thank you for joining us this morning! We are blessed by your presence.*

*Children are always welcome in church,
If desired, there is an unstaffed nursery for those age 4 and younger
located on the second floor in the education wing. First door on the right.*

*Large print bulletins and hearing devices for today's worship are available,
please feel free to ask an usher if interested.*

THIS WEEK AT FIRST **February 23 – March 2**

Sunday	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:45 a.m.	Worship
	11:45 a.m.	Taco Lunch and Guatemala Presentation
Monday	7:00 p.m.	Scouts
Tuesday	6:30 p.m.	Scouts
	6:30 p.m.	Bible Study in the Parlor
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.	Quilting
Thursday	6:15 p.m.	Bell Choir
	7:15 p.m.	Sanctuary Choir
Saturday	9:30 a.m.	Holy Communion Instruction for Children
Sunday	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:45 a.m.	Worship w/ Holy Communion
	3:00 p.m.	Susquehanna University Choir

GATHERING

WELCOME & PRELUDE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Please stand as you are able.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life.

Amen.

Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts,
let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God, you speak blessing and compassion into the world.

Forgive us for the ways we act

with judgment, cruelty, or indifference.

We ignore the needs of our neighbors;

we resist your call to oppose injustice;

we give in to scarcity and fear;

we assume the worst about one another.

Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp.

Show us your lovingkindness.

Restore our hearts and repair your world,

that we may live in Christ's ways. Amen.

God proclaims these words of assurance:

“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.

I have called you by name. You are mine.”

In † Christ, you are forgiven.

In the Spirit, you are made free.

Refreshed by the waters of mercy,

live anew as beloved children of God. **Amen.**


The Church of Christ, in Every Age



1 The church of Christ, in ev - 'ry age be - set by
2 A - cross the world, a - cross the street, the vic - tims
3 Then let the ser - vant church a - rise, a car - ing
4 For he a - lone, whose blood was shed, can cure the
5 We have no mis - sion but to serve in full o -



change, but Spir - it - led, must claim and test its
of in - jus - tice cry for shel - ter and for
church that longs to be a part - ner in Christ's
fe - ver in our blood, and teach us how to
be - dience to our Lord; to care for all, with -



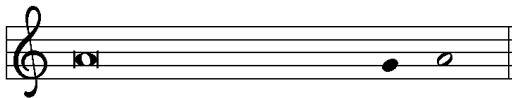
her - i - tage and keep on ris - ing from the dead.
bread to eat, and nev - er live be - fore they die.
sac - ri - fice, and clothed in Christ's hu - man - i - ty.
share our bread and feed the starv - ing mul - ti - tude.
out re - serve, and spread his lib - er - at - ing word.

GREETING

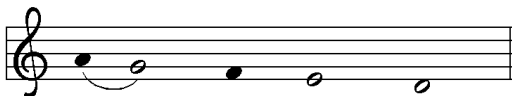
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

And also with you.

KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



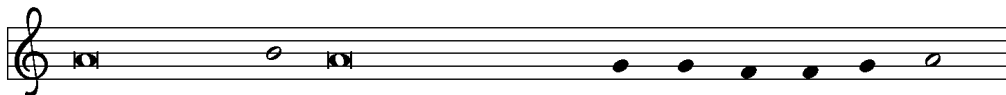
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE



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;

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

O Lord Jesus, make us instruments of your peace, that where there is hatred, we may sow love, where there is injury, pardon, and where there is despair, hope. Grant, O divine master, that we may seek to console, to understand, and to love in your name, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated.

WORD

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READING

Genesis 45:3-11, 15

³ Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?” But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence. ⁴ Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come closer to me.” And they came closer. He said, “I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵ And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶ For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. ⁷ God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. ⁸ So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. ⁹ Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, ‘Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. ¹⁰ You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. ¹¹ I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.’ ” ¹⁵ And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

PSALM

Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40

- ¹ Do not be provoked by evildoers;
do not be jealous of those who do wrong.
- ² **For they shall soon wither like the grass,
and like the green grass fade away.**
- ³ Put your trust in the LORD and do good;
dwell in the land and find safe pasture.
- ⁴ **Take delight in the LORD,
who shall give you your heart's desire.**
- ⁵ Commit your way to the LORD; put your trust in the LORD,
and see what God will do.
- ⁶ **The LORD will make your vindication as clear as the light
and the justice of your case like the noonday sun.**
- ⁷ Be still before the LORD and wait patiently.
Do not be provoked by the one who prospers,
the one who succeeds in evil schemes.
- ⁸ **Refrain from anger, leave rage alone;
do not be provoked; it leads only to evil.**
- ⁹ For evildoers shall be cut off,
but those who hope in the LORD shall possess the land.
- ¹⁰ **In a little while the wicked shall ¹ be no more;
even if you search out their place, they will not be there.**
- ¹¹ But the lowly shall possess the land;
they will delight in abundance of peace.
- ³⁹ **But the deliverance of the righteous comes from you, O LORD;
you are their stronghold in time of trouble.**
- ⁴⁰ You, O LORD, will help them and rescue them;
you will rescue them from the wicked and deliver them,
because in you they seek refuge.

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

³⁵ But someone will ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?” ³⁶ Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. ³⁷ And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. ³⁸ But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. ⁴² So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. ⁴³ It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. ⁴⁴ It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. ⁴⁵ Thus it is written, “The first man, Adam, became a living being”; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. ⁴⁶ But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. ⁴⁷ The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. ⁴⁸ As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. ⁴⁹ Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven. ⁵⁰ What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL

Luke 6:27-38

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 6th chapter

²⁷ “But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹ If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. ³⁰ Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. ³¹ Do to others as you would have them do to you.

³² “If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³ If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴ If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. ³⁵ But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. ³⁶ Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

³⁷ “Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; ³⁸ give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated

SERMON

Silence follows the sermon for reflection.

PASTORAL PRAYER

Please stand following the prayer as you are able.

Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive



1 “For - give our sins as we for - give,” you taught us, Lord, to pray;
2 How can your par - don reach and bless the un - for - giv - ing heart
3 In blaz - ing light your cross re - veals the truth we dim - ly knew:
4 Lord, cleanse the depths with - in our souls and bid re - sent - ment cease;



but you a - lone can grant us grace to live the words we say.
that broods on wrongs and will not let old bit - ter - ness de - part?
how tri - fling oth - ers' debts to us; how great our debt to you!
then, by your mer - cy rec - on - ciled, our lives will spread your peace.

Text: Rosamond E. Herklots, 1905–1987, alt.
Music: DETROIT, *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844

Please be seated.

OUR RESPONSE

GATHERING OF GIFTS

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. Online giving is available at felcc.org or by scanning this QR code



ANTHEM *We Would See Jesus by Craig Courtney*

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERTORY



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right



spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take



not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of



your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

OFFERING PRAYER

**God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens,
and your abundance to the depths of the seas.
Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts.
Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always. Amen.**

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge
the living and the dead.**

**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. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

God of grace, hear our prayer.

LORD'S PRAYER

Jesus, as you taught us, we are bold to pray:

**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.**

BLESSING

The Spirit of the triune God, ✠ bless you with joy,
anoint you with compassion, and send you in love. **Amen.**

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Text: Joachim Neander Music: LOBE DEN HERREN

1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre - a - tion!
2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won-drous-ly reign - ing
3 Praise to the Lord, who will pros - per your work and de - fend you;
4 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me a - dore him!

O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and sal - va - tion!
and, as on wings of an ea - gle, up - lift - ing, sus - tain - ing.
sure-ly his good - ness and mer - cy shall dai - ly at - tend you.
All that has life and breath, come now with prais - es be - fore him!

Let all who hear now to his tem - ple draw near,
Have you not seen all that is need - ful has been
Pon - der a - new what the Al - might - y can do
Let the a - men sound from his peo - ple a - gain.

join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
sent by his gra - cious or - dain - ing?
if with his love he be - friend you.
Glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore him!

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live in hope. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE *From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #33504. Hymns reprinted by permission under One License #A-727079 and CCLI #11318988*

Please remember in your prayers ...

Healing: Don Hershey (3/9), Jane and Paul Stockhousen (3/9), Linus Christmas (3/12), Jerry (3/12)

Continuing Prayers: **Joanne Caskey, Pat Dent, Julie Diehl, June Diehl, Tudy Gates, Charles Kampmeyer, Garry Shatzer, and Joe Pine**

Military: Tawny & Brad Arnold and Parker Brown.



ATTENDANCE

February 16

55 in person

8 online

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP Ash Wednesday is March 5. This year we will be having a 9:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. service with scripture, prayer, and the imposition of ashes. These services will last no longer than 10-15 minutes. The evening service will be our traditional service including music, imposition of ashes and Holy Communion. You are welcome to invite friends and neighbors to worship on this day.

9:30am	Imposition of Ashes (Chapel)
5:30pm	Imposition of Ashes (Chapel)
7:00pm	Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion (Sanctuary)



LENT SOUP SUPPERS A soup and bread supper will be held each Wednesday evening at 5:30 at the **CHURCH WHERE WORSHIP WILL BE HELD**. If you are able to help serve, clean-up, or provide soup on March 19 for the supper being held at First Lutheran, please contact Barb Evans at 717-360-2535.

LENTEN OFFERING This year's Lenten offering will be donated to **Wheels for Women**. This is a local non-profit that supports women facing a wide range of life challenges, including abuse, medical issues, substance recovery, family tragedies and abandonment by providing them with access to reliable used cars. Our donation will help them reach their goal for 2025 to deliver 24 vehicles to struggling women, thus enabling them to regain their independence and navigate the road to a better future. This offering may be placed in the Lenten offering envelope or identified on your check as “Wheels for Women.”

SUSQUEHANNA UNIVERSITY CHOIR at St. John’s Sanctuary located at 1811 Lincoln Way East, Chambersburg (Parking Lot A). Sunday, February 23rd. Starts at 3:00 p.m.

HOLY COMMUNION INSTRUCTION will be held on Saturday, March 1 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. This class is for elementary age children and their parents. If your child is currently receiving communion and you would like them to have a better understanding of the sacrament, or if your child would like to receive Holy Communion in the near future, this class is for you. Please contact the church office to register.

BUZZ JONES SEXTET Join us on Sunday, March 23 at 10:45 a.m. for a unique Lenten Jazz Worship Service premiering Black Americans and their contributions to the arts through jazz and hymnody. Some of these may include: Blues March by Benny Golson; Precious Lord, Take My Hand; Jesus is a Rock in a Weary Land (spiritual); Come Sunday from Duke Ellington’s (1943) Black, Brown & Beige Suite; The Preacher by Horace Silver; I Want Jesus to Walk With Me; Lord, Make Me More Holy; I Let a Song Go Out of My Heart by Duke Ellington. 2025 is the third time this group has visited with us and we are excited about their return. Please invite your friends and neighbors.

SUSQUEHANNA UNIVERSITY CHOIR March 2 at 3:00 p.m. at St. John’s Sanctuary. Mark your calendar! Located a 1811 Lincoln Way East, Chambersburg.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH Sunday, February 23rd at 3:00 p.m. at United Lutheran Seminary Valentine Hall Theatre. Free and open to the public.

BIRTHDAY BAGS Everyone likes to have their birthday celebrated, but when family funds are limited, it does not always happen. Little Daisy's Closet hands out birthday bags to people so their families can have a memorable celebration. We are collecting cake mixes, packaged icing, birthday napkins, balloons, and a disposable baking pan for each bag. If you would like to contribute, please place items in the container outside the main office door. Questions? Contact Joyce Ray.

DOWNSIZING? The Lutheran Churches work together to collect furniture and give it to families in need. If you have any furniture, they would like to have the opportunity to come and look at it to see if it can be used. There is a storage unit for the items until needed. In December and January 4 refugee families from Syria needed much of what was available. If you have furniture to contribute, please contact Shelly Davies at St. Luke Lutheran Church 717-261-1213 or Don Greer at Trinity Lutheran Church 717-263-8156.

“SOCK IT TO ME” Sundays have begun in preparation for the August 16, 2025 Back to School Event. NTT is collecting low cut socks for elementary boys and girls from **Kindergarten through 5th grade**. Our goal is to have **5 pair of socks** for each child who attends the event on that day. You may shop for donations and place those items in the collection sites in the back of the sanctuary, at the elevator entrance to the sanctuary, or in the **NTT** box in Memorial Hall. Cash and check donations are also accepted. You may use the envelopes that are available in Memorial Hall or use your own. Please make checks out to First Lutheran with socks in the memo line.

ST. SERAPHIM is a soup kitchen that offers meals to those in need on Saturdays when the Salvation Army does not provide meals. First Lutheran has joined with St Luke Lutheran to help provide servers for this ministry. St Seraphin is located near the Salvation Army. Upcoming volunteer opportunities are Saturday March 8 and Saturday April 19. If you are willing to help serve please call Mary Gotwald at 717-264-4759.

EVENING BIBLE STUDY In the Footsteps of the Savior: Following Jesus Through the Holy Land. Tuesdays through March 11 at 6:30 p.m. This Max Lucado video study will be facilitated by Pastor Nicholson.

LAUNDRY DAYS continue at Spot Laundry beginning this year on Saturday, March 15, 2025. It is a two hour commitment beginning at 11:30am. Everyone is welcomed to come, greet our neighbors and pay their laundry expenses for that day with a laundry card. We also offer religious materials, water bottles, children's books and Meals on Wheels left overs. NTT has also started a children's library there. We provide used books with a note to take a book or two home. Please contact Joyce Ray at 717-658-6077 if you are interested in helping!

TACOS AND GUATEMALA REPORT

Join us today! Sunday, February 23 following worship for a taco lunch and slide show presented by our missionary group who went to Guatemala in January. Come and share in their exciting experience and hear about how God used our friends to enrich the lives of these children and adults. Everyone welcome!



WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

	<u>February 23</u>	<u>March 2</u>	<u>March 5</u>
Lector:	Becky Hoover	Sally Herritt	Becky Hoover
Soundboard:	Scott Carbaugh	Scott Carbaugh	Scott Carbaugh
Communion		Deb Fleegal	Deb Fleegal
Assistants:		Becky Hoover Tom Kriner	
Greeters:	Bob Wildeson Nancy Wildeson	Bob Hammer Scott Hammer	Bob Hammer Scott Hammer
Closer	Jeff Dorand	Jeff Dorand	Jeff Dorand
Altar Guild:	Barb Evans Karin Woods	Barb Evans Karin Woods	Barb Evans Karin Woods
Ushers:	Jim Brown Rick Gates Denny Love Mary Beth Warne-McGraw Rose Wilson	Denny Love Don Shoop Kathy Shoop Bob Wildeson	Denny Love Don Shoop Kathy Shoop Bob Wildeson



43 West Washington Street
Chambersburg Pa 17201
www.felcc.org
FELCCoffice@gmail.com
717-264-2015

Pastor	The Rev. Jane Nicholson
Pastoral Assistant	The Rev. Charles Kampmeyer
Director of Church Music	Freda J. Dorand, Deacon
Parish Administrator	Ashley Hessong
Treasurer	Sally Herritt
Financial Secretary	Carol McCoy
Custodian	Jennifer Flores

Church Office Hours – Monday - Thursday 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

We welcome visitors this morning.

Please pick up a **visitor's packet**. They are located at the top of the steps.
at the rear of the church or on the table at the elevator entrance.

Our Mission

The mission of First Lutheran Church is to be the light of Jesus,
burning brightly and vigorously in our community.

Sunday Schedule

Donuts and Coffee at 9:15 a.m.
Sunday School for All Ages at 9:30 a.m.
Worship at 10:45 a.m.

also on Facebook at First Evangelical Lutheran Church
and on our webpage at www.FELCC.org

ALL are invited to hear and receive God's blessing in Jesus, and to
worship with us.