

Sundays of Christmas Season
December 27, 2020 and January 3, 2021

NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

*For the safety of all in our congregation,
the congregation council has determined that it will be best for our congregation
to worship with our services **online only** beginning November 29.
On January 11, 2021 the council will evaluate the situation.*

*Please **keep this bulletin** and use it for the two Sundays in the Christmas Season.
For those who are connected to the internet,
we will be posting our worship online early on Sunday mornings.
It will be on facebook “First Evangelical Lutheran Church”
and also on our website at www.FELCC.org.*

*Our church office will not have regular hours from December 24 through January 3.
If you need to stop by the church, you may **use your keycard to enter**.
The pastor will be checking messages and reading e-mails.*

*Thank you to the **decorating committee** for their continued work
in this Christmas season.*

We appreciate all they are doing to make our worship experience meaningful.

*We will be posting **updated prayers and announcements** on the website.
Below the worship videos click on “Bulletins” and we will add the updates there.*

God’s Blessings to you during the Christmas Season. Happy New Year, too!

~Pastor Jane Nicholson~

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

On this day earth shall ring –
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

For Christ our Lord has been born for us, the Son given to us.
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Love has come down at Christmas, and perfect love has absolved all fear.
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Friends, let us rejoice this day! For Christ is born, and the angels sing:
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

HYMN

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

December 27 Let us pray: Almighty God, you wonderfully created the
dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it.
In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who
came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God,
now and forever. **Amen.**

January 3

Let us pray: Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

WORD

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SPECIAL MUSIC

GOSPEL READING

The Gospel according to St. _____, the ____ chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

December 27

Luke 2:22-40

January 3

John 1:1-18

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

HYMN

OUR RESPONSE

OFFERING *Returning thanks to God with our offering is a regular part of our worship. You are welcome to mail your financial gifts to church at 43 West Washington St; Chambersburg PA 17202 or give online at www.FELCC.org. Click on the "give" button on the top right hand corner of your screen or on your cellphone click on the three dots and choose "give."*

OFFERING PRAYER

Generous God, you have created all that is, and you provide for us in every season. Bless all that we offer, that through these gifts the world will receive your blessing. In the name of Jesus, our Messiah, we pray. Amen.

NICENE CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**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.**

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us 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.**

SENDING

BLESSING

Almighty God, who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary,
proclaimed joy through the angels, sent the shepherds with good news,
and led the magi by a star, bless you this day ✝ through the Word made flesh.
Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus. **Thanks be to God.**

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Remember in your prayers...

Sandy Curfman	Aloma Dawkins	Ernie Fricke
Rick Gates (1/15)	Bonnie Goshen (1/7)	Mary Gotwald (1/7)
Nancy Jacobs	Charles Kampmeyer (1/31)	Elva Kroeger
Irene Naugle (1/15)	John Newcomer	Dalton & Julie Paul
Ron Roof (1/20)	Evelyn Scott	Carrie Stopyra (1/3)
James Warne	Jim Woods (1/26)	Private Parker Brown
The Family of Pam Keller		

HOLIDAY CLOSING Regular office hours will not be kept from December 24 through January 1. Please leave a message or send an e-mail and Pastor will be in touch. If you have a pastoral emergency, please call Pastor Nicholson at home. 717-753-3940. Pastor Nicholson is at home under quarantine through January 10. Call or email her at home if needed.

PANDEMIC FATIGUE Are you feeling mentally and emotionally exhausted from all the disruptions to life brought on by the pandemic? Are you facing isolation, loneliness, anxiety, grief, health issues, financial strain or job loss? Please know you don't have to face these things alone. If you or someone you care about is experiencing difficulties like these, our Stephen Ministers are ready to listen, care, encourage, and be there to offer support. A Stephen Minister will meet with you privately—by phone or video chat—to focus on you and your needs. It's free and completely confidential, and it offers real care, comfort, and hope. To learn more, please contact Stephen Ministry Leader, Linda Beaver at 717-264-0737 or lbeaver@spiritrustlutheran.org

BACK PACK PROGRAM January suggested items are: grains such as Graham or Animal Crackers, Light Popcorn, Whole Grain Cereal, Granola Bars, Individual Cereal Boxes. Thank you for your continued support of this much-needed program.



THANK YOU to those who gave coats and to those who worked with the Coat Give-Away on Saturday, January 2. Thanks also to Giant Grocery, St. Luke and to Trinity Lutheran for the hats and mittens provided to share.

ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING Our Congregation meeting will be held on January 24 following worship. (11:15). This will be a hybrid meeting with people gathering in the sanctuary and on Zoom. Our main piece of business will be to approve the 2021 budget. You may pick up your annual report (including the proposed budget) in the church office closer to the meeting date. If you would like to participate via Zoom, please email Theo (Theo.FELCC@gmail.com) by Thursday, January 21.

YOU ARE NEVER ALONE by Max Lucado. Each of us longs for someone who will meet us in the midst of life's messes. We believe in a living, loving,



miracle-working God who won't think twice about stepping into the thorny thickets of our world and lifting us up. In this study of the gospel of John, we discover that Jesus is right here with us and cares about every aspect of our life. Pastor Nicholson will be leading this Bible Study on Thursday nights via

Zoom. The group will view a video clip and then reflect together. The study will begin on January 28 and run through March 4 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. If you would like to participate in this group, please contact the church office so we are able to order a study guide for you.

ANNUAL REPORTS from committees/staff are due to felccoffice@gmail.com by Monday, January 4, 2021.

THE GIVE AND TAKE BOX Please pick up a few items to share. This box supplies personal care items such as shampoo, deodorant, tissues, toothpaste and brushes, hand soap, body soap, laundry detergent, dish detergent, band aids, and toilet paper.



COLLECTION OF QUARTERS by The Neighborhood Task Team has resumed for future Laundry Events. If you have donations you may drop them off at the church office during office hours or you may drop your donations at either entry/exit from the sanctuary. There is a basket at back of the sanctuary and a Laundry Soap container at the elevator entrance. Thanks so much for your support of this ministry to our neighbors.