

First News First

Volume 54, Issue 9

October 2021

All of my life, when things kind of naturally fell into place, I have always believed that it was God's hand guiding my path. It seemed that God was setting the course and I was willingly following the call of God in my life. It was not always easy – but it felt like I was heading in the direction God intended.



This summer, I have been in prayer regarding our congregation, our ministry, and how God wants us, as the people of First Lutheran to be a light, a “Beacon of Hope” in our community. In August, the council was requested to be in conversation with God and with members of our congregation, envisioning what our ministry might look like if we were viewed as a Lutheran Community Center in addition to being a worshiping congregation. As I write this letter, we have not yet had the follow-up conversation, but God does not always wait for us. The Lord comes knocking.

At the end of August, we received a phone call asking if our facility could be used for a job fair for JLG. They said they may want to transport people from downtown Chambersburg out to Shippensburg daily to work. How cool is that? The neighbors in our community who do not have transportation to get to work, would have an option for employment! In the middle of September, this job fair will be taking place in our Fellowship Hall. Exciting!

The first week in September we received an inquiry from a local ministry organization that they were in need of less expensive space to rent. Currently they are on the square. The council will be discussing this option at our September council meeting. Exciting to be partners in ministry! You will hear more about this organization in the future if they decide to lease office space from us.

On Labor Day weekend as I was preparing the sermon, God placed it on my heart to compare the Gentile woman (foreigner) who had an ill daughter whom Jesus healed, with the refugees from Afghanistan (foreigners) that would certainly be coming to the United States in the future in need of emotional healing, hospitality, and hope. On Tuesday, I receive an e-mail asking some of the local churches to join together to explore sponsoring a refugee family. How amazing is that!

God doesn't wait for us. The Lord comes knocking and presents ministry opportunities for us with our community. We still do not have the full vision, but pieces are opening up and it truly is exciting to see what God is up to with First Lutheran.

Keep our church in prayer as we envision what being a “Beacon of Hope” will look like in our community.

Pastor Jane Nicholson



Stewardship—Beacon of Hope

First Lutheran is wanting to be a Beacon of Hope.

Our mission statement says *we are the light of Jesus, burning brightly and vigorously in our community.*
Throughout the month of October, we will be using this theme to talk about our ministry related to stewardship.

October 3 – First Lutheran as Beacon of Hope to the World

World Communion Sunday and In-Gathering
Pastor Nicholson with the children –
blessing of quilts, layettes, backpacks,
health kits, and sewing kits

October 10 - First Lutheran as Beacon of Hope to the Hungry

Harvest Home Sunday
Pastor Nicholson with the children –
blessing of food collection for
Meals on Wheels

October 17 - First Lutheran as Beacon of Hope through Servanthood

Bishop Dunlop – Biblical text for the day
Jesus said, “Whoever shall be great
among you must become your servant.”
Mark 10:35-45
Gertrude Kampmeyer – stewardship message

October 24 - First Lutheran as Beacon of Hope by Way of Vision

Bartemaus, a blind beggar regains his sight
through faith. (Mark 10:46-52)
How are we gaining God’s vision for our ministry?
Tim Gotwald – stewardship message

October 31 - First Lutheran as Beacon of Hope to our Neighbors

Love your neighbor as yourself. (Mark 12:28-34)
Nancy Fricke – stewardship message
Reception of anticipated giving cards





REFORMATION SUNDAY

Join us on
Sunday, October 31, 2021 at 10:45
as we celebrate the 504th anniversary
of the Lutheran Reformation during worship.
Guest Preacher: The Rev. Herbert Spomer

NEIGHBORHOOD TASK TEAM

Sharing God's love in our community

MEGA EVENT - NOVEMBER 6, 2021

The NTT is collecting new and used items for the Mega event. Here is a list of what we are collecting: winter coats for men, women and children, hats, scarves, mittens/gloves, winter clothing for men, women and children, shoes, boots, socks, books (children's and religious/devotional for children and adults), washcloths/ bath towels and blankets/bedding. This year we are adding adult underwear (new and brief style only). Please wash all items before donating them.



The collection will begin on September 1 and run through October 17th. Drop off is in Memorial Hall in the designated bins. Please tell your family and friends about this chance to donate unused or outgrown items. The coats for children are a big need.

This is our opportunity to help our neighbors be comfortable through the winter and a chance for us to share God's love. First Lutheran is partnering with Trinity Lutheran and St. Luke Lutheran in our efforts to bless our community. Thanks be to God who is working through all of us. If you have questions or need help in delivering a donation to First, contact Mary Gotwald at 717-264-4759.

Scheduled Work Days for the Nov 6, 2021 Mega Event At First Lutheran

October 4, 2021 Upstairs storage/quilters room 9-11 am

October 18, 2021 Upstairs storage/quilters room 9-11 am

Set up Day Thursday November 4, 2021 Fellowship Hall 1 pm

Additional work days may need to be scheduled as we get closer to the event.

Event Day Schedule November 6, 2021 11 am-2pm

Volunteers please arrive by 10-10:15 am

You may stay the entire event time or you may leave when necessary.

Thank you

NEIGHBORHOOD TASK TEAM



Back to School Event

On Saturday August 21, 2021 First Lutheran opened their doors to the neighborhood families offering items in preparation for the upcoming first day of the school year. We gave out 90 backbags to the children and also offered underwear, socks, sweatpants, t-shirts, school supplies, books, music/songs and snacks.

The Neighborhood Task Team can only hold these events because of the items and help that we receive from the volunteers and members of the supporting congregations, First Lutheran, Trinity Lutheran and St Luke Lutheran. We have also received donations from members of First United Methodist. Thanks also to Thrivent for the grant money that was also used to purchase items for the day. The Neighborhood Task Team volunteers organize, shop, set up giveaway items and greet our neighbors the day of the event with the love of God in their hearts. It seems that whatever amount we have to share, we could use more. The needs in our community are great. The neighbors have come to know that this group of congregations care and share. We pray that they feel the love of God in our manner, voice, spirit and gifts.



All women of the church are invited to the October 14 meeting of the Women of the ELCA for the monthly Bible Study. The series that is

being used is entitled “Fruits of the Spirit,” and the monthly topics will be based on Joy, Patience and Goodness. Jane Love will lead the discussion in October, with the meeting beginning at 1:30 p.m. in the meeting room. Refreshments will be served.



Ladies' Breakfast

The Women's Fellowship Breakfast

will be on
Wednesday October 19, at
8:30 a.m. at Texas Lunch (Tracks)
ALL LADIES ARE WELCOME.



The Annual Thankoffering service will be observed on Sunday, November 22, with the Rev. Carla Christopher-Wilson as our guest speaker. She is an assistant to the Bishop of the Lower Susquehanna Synod.



Donations of food items for the school backpack program are greatly appreciated. For the Month of October, suggestions are: spaghetti and meatballs, ravioli, beefaroni and lasagna in single-serve container. Thank you for your contributions.

The news media is full of news every day of natural disasters and political turmoil in every country. Lutheran Disaster Response is one agency that covers all of these events in a significant way, and through your help. When you contribute to LDR through your offering envelope, you can designate a specific event such as hurricane relief or wildfires, or you can just indicate LDR on your check or envelope. Either way, your assistance is greatly needed and appreciated.

Some facts on Lutheran Disaster Response for the year 2020:

- LDR paid out \$11,902,376 for relief efforts.
- 52% of that was for assistance in the U.S.
- 44% of that was for international assistance
- 4% of that was for fundraising and Administration.
- In the U.S. 22% was used for hurricane relief.
 - 15% was used for COVID-19 assistance
 - 15% was used for wildfire relief.



Right alongside all these hardships, we have seen acts of incredible kindness and generosity that remind us of God's work in and through us, in in the most difficult times.

Retreats

ADULT HAPPENINGS at Camp Nawakwa

ADULT BOOK STUDY RETREAT Books discussed are:



Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis by J.D. Vance

Appalachian Reckoning: A Region Responds to Hillbilly Elegy by Anthony Harkins

At Home in the Heart of Appalachia by John O'Brien

What you are Getting Wrong about Appalachia by Elizabeth Catte

October 5-7 at Nawakwa. Registration fee: \$150. Lodging and meals provided. Please call 717-677-8211 or visit LutheranCamping.org to register by September 24.

QUILT AUCTION

Lutheran Camping Corporation of Central PA is having its annual Quilt Auction at Camp Nawakwa (1033 Nawakwa Rd, Biglerville, PA 17307) on Sunday, November 7. The silent auction of handmade craft items is at 2 p.m. The live auction of Quilts is at 3:00 p.m. Dinner following the live Auction. This is a free event and includes an evening meal.



Register by October 31. Items may be previewed at LutheranCamping.org/quiltauction

WOMEN'S CRAFT RETREAT

**Eat
Sleep
Craft
Repeat** November 12-14 at Nawakwa. You may bring your own project to work on or they will be provided. Registration fee: \$155. Register by November 1. Meals, lodging, and most supplies provided. Call 717-677-8211 or visit LutheranCamping.org to register.

YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY at Camp Nawakwa

FALL FOLIAGE DAY

Sunday, October 24.

Includes Pumpkin

Painting, Apple Butter

Boil, Hayrides, Hiking, and more!.

Bring your family and friends to camp for a fall afternoon from 1 to 6 p.m. An evening meal will be provided. Registration is \$10/person. Please register by Friday, October 15. Call 717-677-8211 or visit LutheranCamping.org to register.



Winter Youth Retreat at

Kirchenwald. For youth in grades 3 through 9. January 7-9, 2022.



Enjoy Kirchenwald in the Winter! Play broom hockey and other games on the frozen pond. Have fun sledding, playing snow soccer, and other winter games. Creative Bible Study and Worship experiences are led by summer camp counselors. Other indoor and outdoor activities may be included as weather dictates. Cost \$145. Registration deadline is December 15. Call 717-677-8211 or visit LutheranCamping.org to register.

Thank You

Dear First Lutheran,

Thank you for your generous gift of \$2,000 to ELCA Global Mission. Your support enables ELCA Global Missionaries, Stephen & Jodi Swanson, to serve in Tanzania. Thank you for your gracious gifts, The glory of God is shining through you.

With Gratitude, Rahel Mwitula Williams, Director, ELCA Global Mission Funding

Dear First Lutheran Family,

Thank you so much for your prayers, support, and encouragement throughout my first year of seminary! I have been learning and growing immensely, through all the changes and surprises the past year has brought. I have officially finished one academic year, as well as a summer internship as a hospital chaplain. As I start this new year, I am going to classes in person(!), serving as the chaplain for our Lutheran student group, and doing a pastoral internship with a local ELCA congregation. None of this would be possible without all of your support! I think of the First Lutheran community often and am so grateful for all of you.

Peace,

Kathleen



Announcements

PREGNANCY MINISTRY ANNUAL CELEBRATION & FUNDRAISING DINNER



To benefit Pregnancy Ministries, Inc. will be held at Antrim BIC Church, 24 Kauffman Rd., Chambersburg PA 17202 on October 14, 2021 at 6:15 p.m. Special guest speaker will be Clair Culwell, an International Pro Life Speaker and author of Survivor: An Abortion Survivor's Surprising Story of choosing Forgiveness and Finding Redemption. Seats are free, but please RSVP to reserve your spot. Go online at pregnancyministries.org/events or call 717-267-3738.

Where will She Turn for Help?

Pregnancy Ministries' Volunteer Training

Our next VOLUNTEER TRAINING for Client Advocates and Receptionists begins soon!

Classes will run Tuesdays and Thursdays
October 26—November 18, 6—9 PM

Training will equip you to volunteer with any aspect of the ministry. Is God calling you but you can't make the dates? See how training can be alternately arranged OR see how you could help with other support services.

Please call the Chambersburg Center 717-267-3738 for more details on receiving a volunteer packet and pre-registering!



Announcements

Grief Support Group

Trinity Lutheran will begin a 13 week grief support group on Thursday, November 11.

You may register by calling the office at Trinity Lutheran (717-263-8156).



Blessing OF Animals

Sunday, October 3 at 4:00



Chambersburg Crop Walk

This year's CROP walk will take place on October 17 beginning at 1:30

p.m. It will commence from Central Presbyterian Church and follow a 2 ½ mile route that circles the downtown area. If you have an interest in walking, please come by the church office to pick up materials. If you would like to financially support the walkers and help stop hunger in our community and world, please make checks payable to "Church World Services" and drop them off in the church office. Money raised will help the hungry around the world, including those at the Chambersburg Area Food Pantry and the Salvation Army.



ST. LUKE
Evangelical Lutheran Church

2695 Luther Drive,
Chambersburg, Pennsylvania
www.stlukechambersburg.org
717-261-1213

Our annual Blessing of Animals is scheduled for Sunday, October 3 at 4:00PM on the land between St. Luke and SpiriTrust to the rear of our property.

HELPING HANDS

Council

President: Tim Gotwald
 Vice President: Tom Kriner
 Secretary: Rose Wilson
 Pastor: Jane Nicholson
 Deacon: Freda Dorand
 Jeff Dorand
 Barb Evans
 Warren Heintzelman
 Mary Beth McGraw-Warne
 Joyce Ray
 Tedd Sloan
 Gerry Wilson
 Treasurer: Sally Herritt
 Financial Secretary: Carol McCoy



Alyssa Ross	10/1	Robert Hammer	10/23
Adam Pittman	10/3	Ruth Ann Brown	10/24
Donna Ross	10/6	Maura Wilson	10/24
Isaac Buselli	10/8	Charles Yaukey	10/25
Paul Holbrook	10/8	Stephen Umbrell	10/26
Troy Hurst	10/9	Adam Grove	10/28
Emery Coy	10/11	Elliot Coy	10/29
John Sekel	10/16	Richard Ray	10/30
Laura Burkholder	10/17	Tracy Ross	10/30

HOSPITALIZATION



If someone you know from our church is hospitalized please contact Pastor Nicholson to let her know by calling 717-264-2015 ext.4 or email flcpastor@outlook.com. If this is an emergency—feel free to contact Pastor Nicholson at home 717-753-3940.

TRANSPORTATION

Need a Ride?

Our church provides transportation to church on Sundays!
 Please call if you need a ride.

Church office:
 717-264-2015



Deadline for the November Newsletter will be **October 15.**

PRAYER CHAIN

May we include you in our prayers? Do you have a prayer need that we can help you with? If so, please call our prayer-chain group leader:

Marcia Hunt @

717-263-0781

Names are kept on the prayer chain for 1 month. After that month, please contact the office again if you would like to have a name on for another month.

FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

43 W. Washington Street
Chambersburg, PA 17201
E-mail: felccoffice@gmail.com
Website: www.felcc.org

 @FirstEvangelicalLutheranChurch
 @felccyouth

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

CHURCH OFFICE	717-264-2015
Parish Administrator	ext. 1
Director of Music	ext. 3
Pastor	ext. 4

DATED MATERIAL—PLEASE DO NOT DELAY

Luther's Rose Explanation

Luther designed this seal to represent his theology. Luther's explanation:



First, there is a black cross in a heart that remains its natural color. This reminds us that it is faith in the Crucified One that saves us. Anyone who believes from the heart will be justified (Romans 10:10). It is a black cross, which mortifies and causes pain, but it leaves the heart its natural color. It does not kill us but keeps us alive, for the just shall live by faith in the Crucified One (Romans 1:17). The heart stands in the middle of a white rose. This shows that faith gives joy, comfort, and peace—it puts the believer into a white, joyous rose. Faith does not give peace and joy like the world gives (John 14:27). This is why the rose must be white. White is the color of the spirits and angels (cf. Matthew 28:3; John 20:12). This rose stands in a sky-blue field, symbolizing that a joyful spirit and faith is a beginning of heavenly, future joy, which begins now, but is grasped in

hope, not yet fully revealed. Around the field of blue is a golden ring to symbolize that blessedness in heaven lasts forever and has no end. Heavenly blessedness is exquisite, beyond all joy and better than any possessions, just as gold is the most valuable and precious metal.