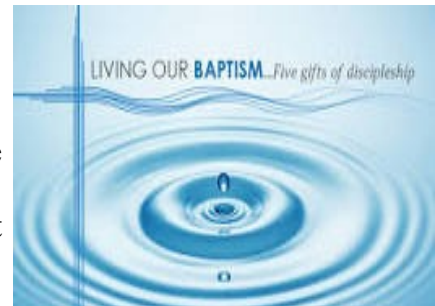


First News First

LIVING OUR BAPTISM

The first Sunday after the Epiphany traditionally commemorates the Baptism of Jesus and we hear a clear affirmation of God's love for him, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." (Matthew 3:17) We will commemorate this on January 8.

In baptism, the Holy Spirit came to Jesus and his mission on this earth was launched. In our baptism we, too, receive the gift of the Holy Spirit transforming our lives and propelling us into service in his Kingdom. The gifts of discipleship which we hear in the baptismal service are the promises made by our parents or guardians. As we grow in age and maturity we continue to walk in the waters of our baptism and commit our lives as we affirm our baptism.



To affirm our baptism (most notably at Confirmation, but also at other times) means that we pledge our intention to continue in the covenant God made with us in baptism:

- ❖ to **live** among God's faithful people,
- ❖ to **hear** the word of God and **share** in the Lord's supper,
- ❖ to **proclaim** the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
- ❖ to **serve** all people, following the example of Jesus, and
- ❖ to **strive** for justice and peace in all the earth

(Evangelical Lutheran Worship, p. 236)

If we indeed affirm these things, our response is: "I do, and I ask God to help and guide me." So begins a daily claiming and re-discovering of the God-given gifts of discipleship. These gifts overlap and are intertwined as one gift flows into another and into faithful living. Our baptism sets us out on a lifelong journey that is characterized by our relationship to God, our relationship to our faith community, our relationship with our neighborhood, and our relationship to the wider world. Marked with the cross of Christ and sealed by the Spirit, we receive a new identity as followers of Jesus, and the story of Jesus becomes our story.

I encourage you to contemplate in this new year, how you will live out your baptismal calling and promises each and every day.

Pastor Nicholson

THANK YOU to the congregation for giving to the ongoing needs of our community through the discretionary fund. The generous contributions received this fall to help people in need are greatly appreciated.

Thank You
FOR
GIVING
...
GENEROUSLY

HOLIDAY CLOSING

The church office will be closed on Monday, December 26 and Monday, January 2. If you have a pastoral emergency during the Christmas Season, please call Pastor Nicholson at home. 717-753-3940.



ANNUAL REPORTS

are due to the church office by Tuesday, January 3 from the staff as well as the committees.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

There will be no Sunday School, Confirmation, or coffee and donuts on December 25 or January 1.

PLEASE!!
NOTE



**Annual
Congregational
Meeting**

CONGREGATION ANNUAL MEETING

will be held on Sunday, January 29 following worship. This meeting will provide us with the opportunity to review the highlights of the past year and approve a ministry spending plan for 2023. We hope you will be able to join us.




A huge thank you from the Stewardship Committee for returning your 2023 Anticipated Giving Cards. We have received

39 cards as of December 4. We ask those who have not returned their cards to please give consideration to pledging what you feel you could give for the 2023 year. This is a huge help for planning our church budget. Thank you again for those who have pledged. It is greatly appreciated.




While on sabbatical, Pastor Nicholson visited Kathleen Getaz, one of our congregation's seminary students, at Princeton Seminary in Princeton, NJ. Kathleen has one more semester of studies left prior to her graduation with a Master's of Divinity degree. She then plans to continue with schooling for one more year to complete her Master's of Social Work degree. Following her academic work, she will have one year as a ministry intern prior to becoming an ordained pastor in the ELCA. Kathleen has been very grateful for the financial assistance that helped to cover her housing costs while at seminary. If anyone has an interest in attending Kathleen's seminary graduation from Princeton on Saturday, May 20, 2023, please let Pastor Nicholson know. If there is interest we could carpool.

WELCA




WELCA
NEWS

The next gathering and Bible Study for Women of the ELCA will be held on Thursday, January 12th at 1:30 p.m. in the meeting room. **ALL** women of the church are invited to this event for study and fellowship. Jean Reed will lead the study.



Food items continue to be requested for the Back Pack program that provides weekend meals for elementary school children. In December we will be collecting fat free sugar free pudding cups and 100% juice boxes. These should be in single serve containers, and may be dropped off at the church office or outside the office. Thank you for your support of this much needed assistance.



Ladies' Breakfast

The Women's Fellowship Breakfast
will be held at
Johnnies Restaurant
8:30 a.m. Wednesday, January 18th
ALL LADIES ARE WELCOME.

SPIRITRUST LUTHERAN

Spiritrust Lutheran® Chambersburg Auxiliary \$5.00 • Expires 6/30/2023 <small>*These offers cannot be combined with any other discounts and excludes all alcohol purchases.</small>	
AROOGA'S GRILLE HOUSE & SPORTS BAR 10% OFF Total Order 717.221.9464 105 West King St., Shippensburg	10% OFF Total Order Wayneboro only. 717.762.1477 11119 Buchanan Tr E, Waynesboro
Carretti's PIZZA 5% OFF Dine-in or Pick-Up 717.263.8553 2825 Philadelphia Ave	EICHHOLZ FLOWERS 10% OFF In Store Only 717.762.7131 133 E Main St, Waynesboro
HAMILTON HYUNDAI 50% OFF Oil Changes \$500 OFF Purchase of Any New or Used Car 717.264-5105 • 2024 Lincoln Way E	HICKORY RIDGE restaurant 10% OFF Total Order 717.552.2734 • 3875 Philadelphia Ave
HOSS'S STEAK & SEA 10% OFF \$30 or more Purchase 717.263.0264 • 20 Falling Spring Rd	Jersey Mike's SUBS 15% OFF Total Order 717.261.0865 241 Walker Rd, Chambersburg
Kenny's grill & ICE CREAM 10% OFF Total Order 717.264.8351 • 2342 Philadelphia Ave	LA Cameras 10% OFF 4x6 Photo Processing & Photo Gifts 1019 Wayne Ave • Chambersburg
MAPLEWOOD farm market LLC \$2 OFF \$25.00 or More 717.532.8973 8564 Old Scotland Rd, Shippensburg	Maria & Sals 10% OFF Total Order 717.352.3071 4550 Lincoln Way E, Fayetteville
Norland Pub Casual Fun, Food, And Spirits \$1 OFF Regularly Priced Wings (Dine-In Only) 717.264.9115 • 454 Norland Ave	PANDA BUFFET 10% OFF Dine-In Buffet Only 717.261.9893 • 1009 Wayne Ave
Perkins RESTAURANT & BAKERY 10% OFF Total Order 717.263.1112 • 1324 Lincoln Way E	POPEYES LOUISIANA KITCHEN, INC. 10% OFF Total Order 717.709.9888 1332 Lincoln Way E, Chambersburg
Stoner's Family Restaurant 10% OFF Total Order 717.263.2008 • 615 Wayne Ave	SAKURA Japanese Restaurant 15% OFF Dinner Only, Excludes Holidays 717.251.2966 1071 Wayne Ave, Chambersburg

The SpiriTrust Lutheran Auxiliary is selling discount cards as a fundraiser. The money raised from selling these cards is used to help such programs as Hospice, Home Care, and The Inn. The cost **has been reduced to \$3.00. The card will still be active through the end of June 2023.** They may be used for discounts at various businesses in the area. If you are interested in purchasing a card and supporting these programs, please see Tudy Gates or call (717) 264-6312. Thanks for your support!

THANK YOU

Dear Ladies of the ELCA,
 Thank you for the very beautiful rose you sent to me while I was in the hospital.

It was so thoughtful and really much appreciated.

Sincerely,
 Dalton Paul



Your prayers, especially, cards, calls and lovely WELCA ladies rose contributed to my recovery.

Grateful thanks,
 Nancy Hamilton

Thank you for supporting the cub pack & boy scout troop during our fall popcorn sale. Your purchase of popcorn and nuts supports our scouting adventures!

The scouts of Pack & Troop 128

Dear Pastor Jane:

I am pleased that our Jazz Worship Service was a rousing success. On behalf of the musicians, thanks very much for the opportunity to participate in the life of your church.

Enjoy a blessed advent season,
 Buzz Jones

HELPING HANDS

Council

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



Christine Burkholder	1/1	Lori Palmer	1/20
James Feight	1/4	Zackary Peters	1/21
Marilyn Yaukey	1/6	Chuck Evans III	1/22
Celina Cassidy	1/7	Garry Shatzer	1/22
Matthew McCoy	1/7	Nancy Fricke	1/23
Norman Walt rick	1/8	George Hammond	1/23
Ethan Yaukey	1/9	Megan Yaukey	1/23
Faye Ulrich	1/11	Janet Friend	1/25
Rosemarie Wilson	1/12	Susan Wingert	1/29
Jeffrey Lensbower	1/15	Julie Paul	1/30
Amanda Rankin	1/18	Barbara Vinson	1/30
Tanya Nitterhouse	1/19	Jim Brown	1/31
Kathleen Getaz	1/20	Karin Woods	1/31

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.

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 February
 Newsletter
 will be
 January 15**

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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PERMIT NO. 137



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



December 24
7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship with Holy Communion, Festive Music, and Candlelight

December 25
9:30 a.m. Christmas Day Worship with Holy Communion and Music



January 1
10:45 a.m. New Year's Day Worship The Naming of our Lord with Holy Communion