

First News First

Volume 57, Issue 5

May 2023

May is a month full of celebrations and special occasions. We continue with our Easter Celebration of Christ's victory over sin, death, and the devil and his gift of peace and assurance in the promise of our resurrection.

At First Lutheran, we will place special emphasis upon two young members of our church family receiving Holy Communion with our congregation. They are John Sekel and Lenora Craven. We will have music Sunday where music and our praise to God are highlighted.



The following week will be our thanksgiving to God for Mothers and Women in our Lives who have shared their faithful witness with us. On this day we will be dedicating the new fountain in the rose garden given in honor of Pat Dent and in memory of Ed Dent.

In May we also celebrate the end of the school year and are thankful to our Sunday School teachers for their work throughout the year in sharing their faith and helping us to grow in ours. We celebrate with Kathleen Getaz as she completes her seminary classes and graduates. More details are provided in this newsletter regarding her plans. We celebrate with Alexis Rankin as she graduates from high school.

And on the last Sunday in May we celebrate the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives with the Festival of Pentecost. (wear red). We hear of the tongues of fire and the wind of the Spirit blowing through our lives – continually working to revitalize us as a people of God. We also on this day will remember those who gave their lives as they fought for their country and for our freedom. We are fortunate to be citizens of this nation and we want to pay respect to those who gave their lives to make our freedom possible.

May the wonders of the Easter celebration and many accomplishments of God in and through us bring great joy to your life.

Pastor Jane Nicholson

Worship WITH US

Sunday, May 7 – 10:45 worship, Holy Communion recognizing those who attended communion class, and Music Sunday

Sunday, May 14 – 10:45 worship, Mother's Day and Dedication of Fountain in the Rose Garden

Sunday, May 21 – 10:45 worship, Holy Communion followed by Pancake Lunch (Scout fundraiser)
Last day of Sunday School and Confirmation Classes

Sunday, May 28 – 9:30 worship, Pentecost Sunday (wear red), Holy Communion, Memorial Day weekend.

Sunday, June 4 – 9:30 worship, Holy Trinity Sunday, Holy Communion, High School Graduation Recognition

Sunday, June 11 – 9:30 worship

Sunday, June 18 - 9:30 worship, Holy Communion, Rose Rent

Sunday, June 25 – 10:45 outdoor worship at Green Township Park in Scotland. Picnic follows worship.

Thank You



EASTER APPRECIATION

Thank you to all of those who worked so diligently in preparation for a beautiful Holy Week and Easter. Thank you to those who worked with worship planning and bulletin preparation, altar guild, decorating and flower team, ushers, musicians, greeters, communion servers, lectors, acolytes, sound and video equipment, cooks and servers of Easter breakfast, leaders of Easter activities for our children, those who made the exterior and interior of our building space beautiful, and everyone else who helped in any way. We could not do it without you. Thanks so very much for all you do at Easter and throughout the year. Pastor Nicholson

FAITH FORMATION



At the end of our traditional learning year, we take a moment to thank our teachers who share the faith with us and enrich our living and learning with God's message. Thank you to Mary Gotwald and Nicki Johnson who taught our elementary and younger students. Thanks to Pastor Nicholson and Gerry Wilson for teaching our confirmation class. Thank you to Tim Gotwald for teaching our adult Sunday School class.



SEMINARY GRADUTION

Congratulations to seminarian, Kathleen Getaz, upon her graduation from Princeton Seminary on May 20. Most likely Nancy Hamilton and Pastor Jane Nicholson will be attending her graduation on this day at the Princeton University Chapel in Princeton, NJ. Their attendance is dependent upon ticket availability. Following her seminary graduation, Kathleen will hopefully have a summer field study in the area of social work. In the fall she will be attending Princeton University and be working to attain her Master's in Social Work. She hopes to graduation with that degree in May 2024. She will then have a one year internship in preparation for her call as a Pastor in the ELCA.

CONGRATULATIONS

- To Lenora Craven and John Sekel upon receiving their First Communion this spring.
- To The Rev. Bill Nienstedt upon the 15th anniversary of his ordination in April.
- To Alexis Rankin upon her High School Graduation in May.
- To Kathleen Getaz upon her graduation from Princeton Seminary on May 20.
- To Pastor Nicholson upon her election as Dean of the Chambersburg Conference ELCA Churches. This is her second two year term.



CONFIRMATION CAMP

Our young people are looking forward to confirmation camp this year at Nawakwa from June 11 to June 16. The theme for camp is Faith and Doubt and we will be studying the five Biblical characters of John the Baptist, Jesus in the Garden, Mary Magdalene, Thomas, and Peter on the Beach. Please keep Sam Nienstedt, Colton Rankin, Tyler Johnson, and Pastor Nicholson in prayer as they prepare for this adventure. Those going are very appreciative of the money you have contributed to their attendance through the general fund as well as donations to the Youth Scholarship Fund.



On Pentecost Sunday (May 28) we will be decorating the worship space with geraniums to celebrate this special day. We hope to fill the chancel with geraniums. Please find an order form enclosed. Last date to order will be **Sunday, May 14**

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Worship & Music Committee: 1) NetWork Ministry's worship dance team will. 2) Quotes from Bob Rinaldi to update sound/video equipment will join us on April 23 be forwarded to the Property Committee and the Worship & Music Committee. 3) Pastor Nienstedt's 15th anniversary of his ordination will be recognized April 23. 4) Contract has been signed for the Buzz Jones Jazz Quartet to lead worship on January 21, 2024. Cost is \$850.



Scouts: The scouts will hold a pancake lunch following worship on May 21 to raise money for their summer camping trips.

Property Committee: A dedication of the new fountain, in honor & memory of Ed & Pat Dent, will take place on Sunday, May 14, immediately following worship.

Faith Formation: Pastor Nicholson and three young people will attend Confirmation Camp this summer.

Visioning Team: Marotta/Main Architects have been contacted regarding the possible redesign of the chapel/library area for ministry/community use/rentals/etc.

Finance: Council declined the invitation to voluntarily contribute money to the borough tax revenue.

Social Missions: Rose has had no contact from *Tree-4-Hope* regarding a possible visit to Guatemala in January, 2024. We may consider attempting this visit in January, 2025.

Evangelism Committee: The committee is looking into options to update our photo directory.

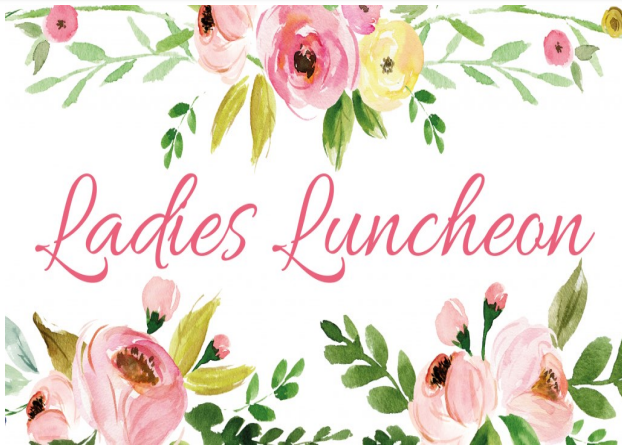
Administration: Paul Agosto is the new owner of the old laundromat and apartments next door to the church. He is working to renovate the building and turn the building into apartments.

Financial Reports: Eighty-percent of the Grace Williams Estate has been received and placed into the Legacy Account awaiting further decisions by the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee will also arrange an audit of the church accounts.

Pastor's Report: 1) Pastor Nicholson will be attending Kathleen Getaz's graduation from Princeton Seminary on May 20. She will purchase an ELCA publication to give Kathleen as a gift from the church. 2) Alexis Rankin will be present on June 4 to be recognized as this year's graduating senior. 3) The Southgate Improvement Committee will meet on April 26 at 2:00.

Easter 2023





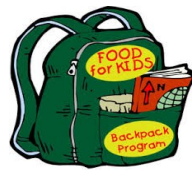
LADIES SPRING LUNCHEON

All ladies of First Lutheran and their friends are invited to the Women of the ELCA Spring Luncheon on Thursday, May 11 at 12:00 noon. The meal will be soups and salads, plus dessert. There is no cost, but we ask that you sign up or call Janet Friend at 717-360-1977, so that we can plan accordingly. There will be entertainment, and an opportunity for fellowship.



The Women's Fellowship Breakfast

will be held at
8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, May 17th
at Johnnie's Restaurant
ALL LADIES ARE WELCOME.



The service project for the Women of the ELCA continues to be supplying individual serving sized items for the elementary school back pack project. Suggestions for the month of May are: Graham or animal crackers, light popcorn, whole grain cereal, granola bars, and individual cereal boxes. Thank you for your support of this project to assist school children with their weekend nutritional needs.



ELCA WORLD HUNGER

As many as 811 million people around the world are undernourished. You gifts matter – in Ghana, the United States, Tanzania and other countries all around the world. As church, our calling is not merely to minister to our neighbors, but to bear witness to the “new thing” God is doing in our world, a new community God is making possible.

NEEMA YA YESU. NEEMA YA JESU

These Swahili words, meaning the grace of Jesus, were sung by young schoolchildren and teachers that had come together for a recent School Kit distribution in the Southern Highlands of Tanzania. Your generous gifts brought tears to the eyes of all present – to thank Jesus first and foremost for his grace. Thank you for each kit you pack with love, sharing the grace of Jesus with your neighbors.



NEIGHBORHOOD TASK TEAM

Sharing God's love in our community



Time is ticking until the May 6, 2023 Spring Fling Giveaway at First. Hours for the event are 10-noon. We will offer our neighbors summer clothing, casual dresses, assorted shoes, light weight jackets and sweaters, bedding and towels plus snacks. Advertisement for the event is prepared and will be distributed. Anyone who is interested is welcomed to help at the event. You are guaranteed to enjoy meeting and assisting our neighbors. Thanks for donations. Thanks to those who sort donated items and volunteer at the event. What joy it brings to share God's love with our neighbors .



Upcoming Laundry Events at
Spot Laundromat Saturday April 22, 2023 10-noon
Sunday June 11, 2023 11-1pm Thanks for your support.

There is a need for this assistance.
The neighbors are appreciative of our help.
A review of these events will be in the July FNF .

Coming Soon- All Sundays in May will be "SOCK IT TO ME SUNDAYS" Another basic need for our neighborhood children is socks. In May the Neighborhood Task Team will collect socks for boys and girls and camis for girls. Socks keep feet warm, dry and protected. Often they can't be passed on because they are worn out. The goal of the NTT is to have socks, underwear and camis to give out at our August "Back to School" event for elementary aged students. You may purchase socks for boys and girls, ages 5-12 low style and camis, girls size medium or large. You may also donate by cash or check-socks or camis in the memo line. NTT will do the shopping. Envelopes will be provided in the May newsletter and bulletins. Thank you for supporting this outreach.



SPIRITRUST LUTHERAN

The annual SpiriTrust Lutheran Chambersburg Auxiliary membership drive will take place during the month of May. Anyone can join with a minimum contribution of \$1.00. Your generous support will continue to allow the auxiliary to make donations to The Inn and Skilled Care Endowment Funds at The Village at Luther Ridge, SpiriTrust Lutheran Home Care & Hospice, as well as SpiriTrust Lutheran LIFE.

Last year we were able to donate \$3000 to each of the following Endowment Funds:

The Inn at Luther Ridge

Home Care & Hospice

Skilled Care and

Supported the work of theses Programs:

Home Care & Hospice

Community Ministries

The Village at Luther Ridge

First Lutheran received 29 members (\$751.00) in our 2022 Membership Drive .

If you would like to join the Auxiliary or need more information, please contact Tudy Gates or Mary Beth McGraw-Warne.

THANK YOU

Dear First Lutheran Congregation,

I would like to express my sincere gratitude for the assistance your organization showed us during our recent move.

Your team of volunteers helped make it possible to move the contents of our S Main St location to our new location at 1613 Orchard Dr. in an amazing time of 1 hour and 15 minutes. We made the entire move without any personal injuries or damage. Praise be to God!

It is our partnership that is making a huge difference in our community. Thank you again for helping us as we are Living God's Call to Serve".

Sincerely,

John B. MaCrae, Founder & President , Little Daisy's Closet

HELPING HANDS

Council

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



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.

| | | | |
|-------------------|------|-----------------|------|
| Taylor Rote | 5/3 | Kayleigh Warne | 5/14 |
| Beverly Umbrell | 5/4 | Kim Wertz | 5/14 |
| Kashton Peters | 5/6 | Andrew Grove | 5/17 |
| John Saunders | 5/7 | Robert Herbert | 5/17 |
| Susie Heintzelman | 5/9 | Pam Dent-Kelley | 5/19 |
| Karen Maclay | 5/9 | Jessica Starr | 5/19 |
| Pauline Shearer | 5/9 | Linda Miller | 5/20 |
| Sam Nienstedt | 5/11 | Dia Schumacher | 5/20 |
| Grayson Peters | 5/11 | Benjamin Ellis | 5/24 |
| Kirk Umbrell | 5/11 | Ashley Wenger | 5/24 |
| Seth Cody | 5/13 | Sammi Hefner | 5/27 |
| Payton Huber | 5/14 | Coleton Rankin | 5/31 |

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 June
 Newsletter
 will be
 May 14**

FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

 @FirstEvangelicalLutheranChurch
 @felccyouth

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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

NON-PROFIT
ORG.

U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

CHAMBERSBURG, PA.

PERMIT NO. 137



DEDICATION OF FOUNTAIN

In Memory of Ed Dent and
In Honor of Pat Dent

Mother's Day

May 14

The Rose Garden Fountain is dedicated to the Glory of God
in Memory of Ed Dent and in Honor of Pat Dent
by Freda & Jeffrey Dorand and Mary Beth & James Warne