

First News First

Volume 57, Issue 7

September 2023



There are exciting things happening which I would like to share with you. Summer has been wonderful and now we are gearing up for fall.

First – Please make an appointment to have your picture taken for our new church directory. Those who are not signed up by September 3 will need to be called and that is a lot of work for our evangelism team. You may sign up using the link on the church Facebook page or on our webpage. You may also sign up on Sunday, August 27 and September 3 following worship or by calling the church office. When

you have your portrait taken, you will receive a free 8x10 photo and a free directory. We look forward to having everyone's photo in the directory, so it is complete. There is a cost to the church if we do not have at least 75 family units have their photo taken by Re:MEMBER photo directory. Thank you to Kristy Nienstedt for her coordinating efforts of the project.

Second – The Visioning Team has been at work. They met with an architectural firm in May to discuss the cost of renovating and repurposing our current chapel space. Following that meeting we received word that She's Somebody's Daughter has found a new home and will be leaving our property at the end of August. With this space available, people have begun dreaming about the potential use for those areas. In the midst of all of this, the synod invited 2 representatives from our congregation to attend a 3 day seminar on the United Lutheran Seminary campus in Philadelphia. The seminar is entitled "Sacred Places Transitions." Rose and Gerry Wilson will be attending on our behalf at the end of September. We are waiting to move forward with any recommendations until they return from the seminar and the Visioning Team and Council have time to process their learnings regarding the enrichment of our facilities and ministry uses of our building.

Third – Our Congregation Council, deacon, and pastor have been invited to attend a Chambersburg area ELCA Conference retreat on September 30. There are 19 churches in our conference and this retreat is designed to see how different congregations might join efforts to be most effective in sharing the good news of the gospel by working together. At least 4 of us from First Lutheran are planning to attend this seminar.

Fourth – September 10 is when Sunday School and Confirmation begin once again at 9:30 a.m. for the fall. We hope all ages will join in learning more about God and God's presence in our world. Classes are available for Middle and Elementary School students as well as Adults.

Fifth – Thank you to everyone for sharing your gifts for the "Back to School Event." The families who attended are so very grateful that their children may enter school with dignity and have adequate socks, underwear, and school supplies. Again, thank you.

All of these things and so much more are happening. Retreats, God's Work Our Hands projects, stewardship planning, WELCA groups and activities, property upkeep and consideration for the replacement of sound/video systems, choirs, quilting, visitation of the homebound, and more! Remember worship will be at **10:45 beginning September 10**. God is truly at work here in this place and beyond!

Pastor Nicholson

UPCOMING



CHURCH PHOTO DIRECTORY A pictorial directory is a powerful tool in our church to help each of us know each other better. Our last directory is now out-dated and it is time for a new one. Your participation will help the church and yourself. Every family photographed for the directory will receive a copy of the directory and an 8x10 portrait at no cost. There are three easy ways to sign-up!

- 1) You can book your appointment after Sunday worship on August 27 and September 3. Look for the table downstairs by the elevator or on weekday mornings, talk with Cheryl in the church office. 717-264-2015.
- 2) Sign-up on our church's website www.FELCC.org.
- 3) Use the link provided on our Facebook page.

Pictures will be taken on Monday, September 18, and Tuesday, September 19. Kindly sign-up by September 3rd. Thanks for your support of this project!

A few additional pieces: We are in need of 75 family units to have their photo taken for the directory to be free to the members of First Lutheran. If you have not signed up by September 3, someone from the Evangelism Committee will be calling you to schedule an appointment. Please make this job easier for our volunteers and make the effort to sign up on your own. We look forward to having everyone included. You are an important part of our congregation.



Our church puts together Personal Care Kits to send to Lutheran World Relief each year. With the help of an Action Team Grant from Thrivent our goal this year is to put 60 health kits together.

A health kit consists of a bath towel, sturdy comb, nail clipper, two bars of soap and an adult toothbrush. We are asking members of

First to contribute **4 oz. bars of soap and toothbrushes.**

On Sunday September 17 our youth and church members will assemble these health kits in Fellowship Hall at 9:30a.m. We are hoping everyone can help with this project.

We also need bars of soap for our layette kits we will put together later. So Please bring LOTS OF 4oz. BARS OF SOAP as both kits need 2 bars of soap in each kit. You may place these in boxes outside of church office. Please contact Janet Friend with any questions at (717) 360-1977.

WORSHIP & MUSIC

August 27	Kathleen Getaz preaching / Orchestra Sunday / Fruit reception following worship
September 3	Communion / Bill Nienstedt preaching
September 10	Autumn Welcome Back, Sunday School begins , Bibles for Children Worship at 10:45
September 17	“God’s Work. Our Hands.” / Worship 10:45 / Communion
September 24	Stewardship Message
October 1	Stewardship Message / Communion / Harvest Home
October 8	Stewardship Message / In-Gathering
October 16	Communion / Receive Anticipated Giving Cards
October 23	Worship
October 30	Communion / Reformation Sun day / Wear Red



HARVEST HOME Sunday October 1. We are collecting food and financial contributions for the Meals on Wheels Program. Donations may be brought to the sanctuary on the first of October or placed outside the office door prior to that. Please place monetary contributions in an envelope marked for Meals on Wheels. The following food items are needed: medium noodles, macaroni, spaghetti and spaghetti sauce, small jars of alfredo sauce, sugar free canned fruit, vanilla cake mixes, canned vegetables, low salt chicken broth, sugar free cookies and Grapenut cereal. They are also in need of dark colored dish clothes.



WORSHIP & MUSIC



Dear family in Christ,

Some years ago, Gertrude and I were privileged to be with a group of people on a trip to Germany. One Sunday, we attended a local church; while the organist played the prelude, everyone listened in absolute silence. After the Benediction, the congregation sat down and listened to the Postlude. We're blest to have Freda as our organist and choir director; let us pay her the respect she deserves by quietly listening to both Prelude and Postlude: the first prepares us for worship; the second reminds us we have been in God's holy Presence. I found the following in *For All The Saints*:

A Prayer Book By And For The Church (Vol.II, p. 413)

In appreciation of Freda: her artistry and faithfulness. – *Pastor Kampmeyer*

Honore Balzac (1799 – 1850)

The Organ is in truth the grandest, the most daring, the most magnificent of all instruments of music invented by human genius. It is a whole orchestra in itself. It can express anything in response to a skilled touch. Surely it is in some sort a pedestal on which the soul pauses for a flight forth into space, essaying on her course to draw picture after picture in an endless series, to paint human life, to cross the Infinite that separates heaven from earth? And the longer a dreamer listens to these giant harmonies, the better he/she realizes that nothing save this hundred-voiced choir on earth can fill all the space between kneeling [worshippers] and a God hidden by the binding light of the sanctuary. The music is the one interpreter strong enough to bear up the prayers of humanity to heaven, prayer in its omnipotent moods, prayer tinged by the melancholy of many different natures, colored by meditative ecstasy, upspringing with the impulse of repentance the impulse of repentance – blended with the myriad fancies of every creed. Yes. In those long vaulted aisles the melodies inspired by the sense of things divine are blent with a grandeur unknown before, are decked with new glory and might. Out of the dim daylight, and the deep silence broken by the chanting of the choir in response to the thunder of the Organ, a veil is woven for God, and the brightness of His attributes shines through it.

FAITH FORMATION

FAITH FORMATION

ALIVE Middle School Retreat The synod hosts this retreat that is scheduled for **September 22-24, 2023, at Camp Nawakwa. The Theme for the weekend is: THE WAY.**

Congregations from across our synod gather with their adult advisors and youth for large group gatherings with singing led by our ALIVE Alumni Band, theme-centered videos and stories, and games, interspersed with small group gatherings, where youth gather with peers and a small group leader, to converse about the theme and its impact in their lives of faith. Our confirmation students are encouraged to attend. There will be no Confirmation Class on this weekend



The weekend also includes crafts, games, campfires, free-time, and community-building that allows youth and adult chaperones to meet new friends. Inspiring outdoor worship often highlights our last morning together at Nawakwa's famous Upper Temple!

+ The event total cost is \$136.00/person. We ask the families to pay the \$50 non refundable deposit. The money the youth raise at their fund raising events will cover \$50 for each youth and the church budget will cover the remaining \$36. Thank you to all who have given generously to support the youth being able to attend. If anyone from the congregation would like to donate money specifically for youth to be able to attend these types of events, including the national youth gathering in New Orleans next summer, you may put the money in the offering and specifically label it "Youth Savings Account." Thank you.

SUNDAY SCHOOL September 10 at 9:30

It is an exciting year for Sunday School. We invite our students in grade 5 and younger to attend our children's Sunday school held in room #208 on the second floor. Thank you to Mary Gotwald and Nicki Johnson for teaching this class. Classes will begin on Sunday, September 10.

Confirmation classes will be taking place in Meeting Room #2 on the first floor for our 6th to 8th graders. Pastor Nicholson will be teaching the Small Catechism and Lutheran History. Classes will begin on Sunday, September 10.

The adult class will be reading and discussing the book entitled, *WHITE AWAKE: An Honest Look at What It Means to be White* by Daniel Hill. Joyce Ray will facilitate the discussion. This class will also begin on September 10 and will meet in the Parlor. All participants are asked to read the first two chapters before the September 10 discussion.

STEWARDSHIP

THANK YOU – DISCRETIONARY FUNDS

Thank you to everyone who has given to the discretionary fund this summer. Your help is much appreciated. One day a person came for clothing assistance. He had a new job with Penn Dot to hold the traffic signs. He had been living out of his car. We were able to help him with donated jeans, steel toed shoes, and Thrivent t-shirts, as well as a hotel room for one night so he could shower prior to going to work on his first day. From the give and take supply we provided him with body wipes for future days in his car. After receiving all of this he sheepishly asked if we might have some noodles for his dinner. We were able to give him peanut butter and crackers. He was incredibly appreciative and so very excited about his new job and how it was all coming together. The next day someone saw him at a road construction area with a big smile on his face turning the sign. God's work. Our hands.



Multiple wildfires have broken out on the Hawaiian island of Maui. Exacerbated by strong winds, wildfires on Maui have claimed dozens of lives and have destroyed homes, businesses and lines of communication. Thousands of people are under evacuation orders, some moving to other Hawaiian islands. Wildfires have also affected the Big Island of Hawaii, and the islands remain vulnerable to more fires this season.

Lutheran Disaster Response is coordinating with the Pacifica Synod and other partners to assess the needs of people impacted by the wildfires. We will work with them to provide for immediate needs and recovery amid the widespread destruction and accompany recovering

Gifts may be either be made payable to **First Lutheran Church** with “**U.S. Wildfires**” written in the memo line and place in the offering plate **OR** they may be made payable to **Lutheran Disaster Fund** with “**U.S. Wildfires**” in the memo line and mailed to **Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; P.O. Box 1809; Merrifield, VA 22116-8009.**

QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTION



Did you know that a Qualified Charitable Distribution allows individuals who are 72 years old or older to donate up to \$ 100,000 total to one or more charities directly from a taxable IRA instead of taking their Required Minimum Distribution? As a result, the donor may avoid paying federal income tax on the distribution while also possibly avoiding being pushed into a higher income tax bracket. Contact your financial advisor and/or your tax advisor for more details and procedures to make it happen.

STEWARDSHIP



THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS

Did you know that you can designate contributions to various organizations, without costing you anything? Anyone who makes use of Thrivent Financial products, such as insurance or investments, can designate funds to organizations such as schools, camps, social service groups or churches. Since Thrivent is a non-profit organization, it is required by law to distribute its profits to charitable entities. This is done through Thrivent Choice Dollars, which policy holders may direct.

At First Lutheran, members have been able to direct dollars to such projects as supplies for quilts, refreshments for social events, Lutheran World Relief kits, Neighborhood Task group projects, and to the general fund of the church. Thrivent members may direct funds either by phone or online. Contact either Gertrude Kampmeyer or Marlin Maclay for assistance if you have not made use of this benevolent opportunity yet.



LUTHERAN DISASTER RELIEF

The news media are full of reports of natural disasters such as fires, tornados and storms. The need for

assistance is on-going, and Lutheran Disaster Relief is one organization that is always ready to assist. Your contributions to LDR are much appreciated, and when given through First Lutheran they can be credited to your giving statement. Thank You for your support!

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

“There is so much suffering in the world – physical, material, mental. The suffering of some can be blamed on the greed of others. The material and physical suffering is suffering from hunger, from homelessness, from all kinds of diseases. Will we allow greed to rule our hearts, or will we accept God’s invitation to joyful generosity?”
Mother Teresa



WELCA
NEWS

The Bible study gathering for Women of the ELCA will be held Thursday, September 14 at 1:30 p.m. in the meeting room. The program title is 'You Did This For Me' and the chosen book is "He Choose The Nails" by Max Lucado. All women of First Lutheran are invited for a time of study and fellowship.



The Women's Fellowship Breakfast
will be held at
Family Table at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday,
September 20

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Property Committee: 1) Carpet has been replaced in the quilting room, office, and meeting room. 2) Research continues for advice and estimates on restoring the deteriorating stained-glass windows in the sanctuary. 3) The elevator inspection will be scheduled for September/October. 4) Motion carried to replace the circular pump for heating Fellowship Hall. Cost: \$4,175. 5) Committee recommends increasing Meals-on-Wheel's lease renewal effective 2024 to \$650 a month 6.) *She's Somebody's Daughter* has notified the church that, effective August 31, they will no longer be renting the suite of offices.

Visioning Team: 1) Team presented concept for repurposing the current library, chapel and office suite (following *She's Somebody's Daughter's* relocation) into a more usable, practical space for church and, possibly, community functions. This concept will be presented to the Property Committee for review and discussion and will be revisited following Rose and Gerry Wilson's attendance at the Sacred Places Transition Seminar in September.

Administration: 1) Rose and Gerry Wilson will be attending the Sacred Places Transition Seminar in Philadelphia on September 28-30. Synod is paying the cost for this workshop. 2) Mary Beth McGraw and Joyce Ray volunteered to attend a Chambersburg Conference of Lutheran Churches workshop on September 30 at Luther Ridge. This workshop is designed to explore ways in which local congregations "may compliment another congregation's needs and assets for ministry as we seek to share the gospel".

Faith Formation: 1) Sunday School will resume September 10 with the following staffing: Joyce Ray leading adult class; Mary Gotwald and Nicki Johnson leading elementary-aged children; Pastor Nicholson leading confirmation.

Evangelism Committee: Families and individuals are being scheduled on September 18 and 19 to have photos taken for a new photo directory.



COUNCIL MEMBERS NEEDED In November we will be electing council members for a three year term to serve from January 2024 through December 2026. If you have an interest in being nominated or finding out more about this opportunity, please talk with Tim Gotwald.

NEIGHBORHOOD TASK TEAM

Sharing God's love in our community



The Neighborhood Task Team (NTT) welcomed elementary school children and their parents to an annual Back to School Event on August 19, 2023. The team believes that all children should have new underwear and socks to start the school year. Thanks to the congregation's generosity and support we will make this possible for many children.

The team will share pictures and comments on the event in the October newsletter.

Write
a
Note

What else is NTT up to?

Members of our team are writing notes of inspiration and support to be given out at Little Daisy's Closet to those in need of God's presence. If this is

something you would like to help with, please let Mary Gotwald know. You may purchase your own notecards or Mary will purchase them for you. To write 5-7 cards would be very helpful to those who need to know that God loves them at a very difficult time.



NTT is planning another Laundry Event at Spot. The date is Sunday August 27 from 11 am -1pm. Please consider contributing to support these laundry events. We give each family a laundry card

with \$8.25 on it to wash and dry a load. We also share laundry detergent pods, dryer sheets, children's books and water bottles along with a prayer book from First Lutheran.

LUTHER RIDGE



Dine To Donate Fundraiser

The SpiriTrust Lutheran Chambersburg Auxiliary invites you to dine out at the Chambersburg Applebee's located at 1050 Wayne Ave, Chambersburg on Monday, September 18th from 4:00 to 8:00PM. Applebee's will donate 20% of your total purchase amount (alcohol not included) to the Auxiliary. All proceeds support SpiriTrust Lutheran, The Village at Luther Ridge and SpiriTrust Lutheran Home Care & Hospice in Franklin County.

Pianists Needed

SpiriTrust Lutheran, The Village at Luther Ridge is seeking pianists to play once a month at the Sunday afternoon chapel service. The service begins at 2:00pm and lasts for approximately a half hour. Please contact Linda Beaver if you are interested in helping at 717-264-0737 or beaver@spiristrustlutheran.org

THANK YOU

Dear Members of LARC,

On behalf of the Diaper Depot of Central Presbyterian Church, we would like to thank you for your generous donation of \$175.00, received on 6/16/23. These funds will provide diapers for many children in the Chambersburg area. The diaper Depot helped over 180 families just in the month of June. That is over 9,000 diapers that were given out to the community.



With the generosity of businesses individual supporters, and faith organizations like yours, the Diaper Depot can continue to help many families in need. We are honored to have our partnership serving this community.

May you be blessed as you have blessed others.
Thanks again for your support!

Beth Jaczun
Finance Administrator
Central Presbyterian Church

Thank you to WELCA and all my First Lutheran brothers and sisters for the flowers, cards and kind thoughts and prayers during my recent illness.

Tim Gotwald



Thank you to the members and Pastor of First Lutheran for their prayers, visit, and cards while I was hospitalized.

Richard Ray

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



Ann Kmiecik	9/1	Charles Kampmeyer	9/18
Gabriel Dubs	9/2	Renee Holoviak	9/19
Timothy Gotwald	9/3	Sandra Drake	9/19
Benjamin Yaukey	9/9	Brian McKenrick	9/21
Kenneth Shearer	9/11	Bill DeHass	9/21
Angela Cody	9/12	Justin Holoviak	9/22
Kathy Shoop	9/12	Paige Massimilla	9/24
Strauss Vinson	9/12	Gerry Wilson	9/25
William Huber	9/13	Aria Lensbower	9/26
Jane Love	9/14	Bonnie Huber	9/28
Wanda Forrester	9/14	Gertrude Kampmeyer	9/28
Leonard Carbaugh	9/16	Shirley Shaner	9/28
Patti Plasterer	9/17	Carol McCoy	9/30

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 October
 Newsletter
 will be
 September 15**

FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Chambersburg, PA 17201
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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

Join us on Sunday, September 10
Autumn Welcome Back

9:15 Coffee and Donut Fellowship



9:30 Children and Adult Sunday School
And Confirmation Classes

10:45 Worship

