

First News First

Volume 57, Issue 8

October 2023

The first Sunday of October is World Communion Sunday. It is when Christians all around the world from all kinds of denominations remember the commonality we have in our belief in Christ as we gather at his holy table.

One piece of furniture that is essential in any dwelling, be it in one's home or the church, is the table. Growing up, the table was the centerpiece of our home. It was a place of gathering, and feasting, and having long conversations. It is a place of daily communion (sustenance in the form of food, faith, community, and communication) when family and friends pull up a chair and sit across from one another, breaking bread, and sharing their lives.



The table that was always at my home growing up had the story of being found out in the neighbors hog barn and for five dollars my parents purchased it, brought it home, refinished it and it served as their formal dining table for the next 45 years.

My family grew up around this table. There were seven of us and it was not uncommon to try to squeeze in fourteen at that table when we had company. It served countless circle groups, missionaries, church groups, youth group Christmas parties, graduation receptions, wedding receptions, funeral receptions, as well as Christmas, Thanksgiving, and Easter dinners. The table eventually had to be tied together underneath to hold all the leaves tightly together. But the finely ironed table cloth and table pad wore out before the table did. It would be impossible to count all the cups of coffee and tea and cookies, crackers and cheese, she's offered to anyone who just pops over. It was also Mom's sacred space for Christmas Card writing. She would hand write notes to over 300 families at that table each year. It was her table of friendship and communication.

What is it about the table? For one thing it gives us space apart from one another to remain individuals, and yet, it draws us ever closer to one another through storytelling, through laughter, through sharing burdens.

I have many memories around my mother's table, of holiday feasts, or clearing the table and doing dishes while mom finally would enjoy conversation with visitors. I remember my siblings, coming home from college and throwing cheese on Christmas Eve over differences of opinions. I remember the empty seat following my father's death.

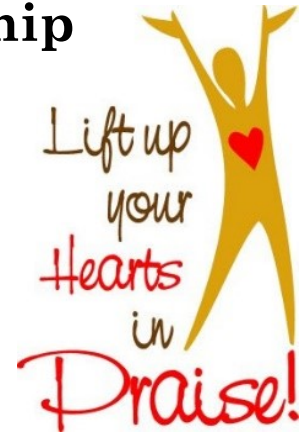
That table was literally where you could feel the heartbeat of our family. My mother had the gift of hospitality. Her arms are always open wide. Somehow or other, God has always provided enough food to go around. Every meal has been a Lord's supper—cooked and baked with gratitude, served with love, and for those who have had the privilege of being served around that table they have been given sustenance to go forth into the world and bring the gospel of generous grace to others because in one small way, they experienced that kind of generosity around her aging walnut table, whose joints squeak and whose parts have to be tied together.

As we come together to celebrate Communion on October 1, let us be mindful of our brothers and sisters in Christ from around the globe sitting at all kinds of tables, sharing in the meal of our Lord. And may each one of us see our own tables in our homes, as the Lord's, where we willingly nourish one another in body and soul just as Christ nourishes us.

Pastor Jane Nicholson

WORSHIP & MUSIC

October and November Worship

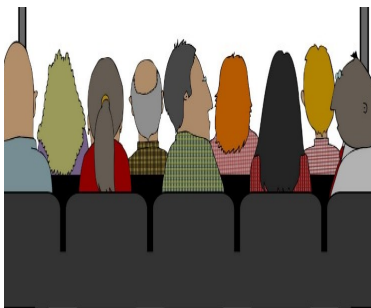


October 1	World Communion Sunday Harvest Home Of the Land and Seasons Liturgy God's Work, Our Hands Message
October 8	In-Gathering of Quilts and Kits God's Work, Our Hands Message
October 15	Holy Communion Dedication of our Anticipated Giving Cards for 2024.
October 22	Worship
October 29	Reformation Sunday with Holy Communion. Wear Red
November 5	All Saints Sunday with Holy Communion
November 12	WELCA Thank Offering Service Honoring our Veterans
November 19	Holy Communion Following Worship—Congregational Meeting to Elect Council Members
November 26	Christ the King Sunday

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2023

If you have a loved one who has entered the church triumphant between November 1, 2022 and October 31, 2023 whom you would like to have remembered by name on All Saints Sunday, please contact the church office and include the spelling of the name, and date of death if available.

felccoffice@gmail.com



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

First Lutheran will be having a congregational meeting on Sunday, November 19 following the 10:45 worship service. The purpose of this meeting will be to elect council members to serve a three year term beginning January 1, 2024.

UPCOMING

COUNCIL NOMINATIONS

First Lutheran Church is in need of persons who are willing and able to serve on the Congregation Council from January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2026.

Please pray about serving in this leadership capacity.

If you are feeling called to serve on our governing body, please speak with Tim Gotwald or Rose Wilson.

Please encourage others who have gifts needed for this to apply as well.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NEEDED



HARVEST HOME

Sunday, October 18, 2020

Please plan to share the bounty of your table with others through the Meals on Wheels program.

The following food items are needed:

- Medium Noodles · Macaroni · Spaghetti & Spaghetti Sauce · Small jars of Alfredo Sauce
- Sugar Free Canned Fruit · White Cake Mixes · Ketchup · Low Salt Chicken Broth · Sugar Free Cookies · Grape Nut Cereal · Canned Vegetables · Dark Colored Dish Cloths
- Monetary donations

Donations may be brought to the sanctuary *Sunday, October 1* or deposited outside the church office door in Memorial Hall. Please place any monetary contributions in an envelope marked for Meals on Wheels.



BACKPACK FEEDING PROGRAM

- The backpack program is designed to help meet the nutritional needs of children at risk of hunger during non-school hours, specifically weekends and holidays. Through this program, participating kids will be given special backpacks once each week that will be filled with non-perishable food which can be used to meet their weekend nutritional needs. In October, protein items are collected in individual serving sized containers. · Spaghetti and Meatballs · Ravioli · Beefaroni · Lasagna



IN-GATHERING

Sunday, October 8 @ 10:45 a.m.

The In-Gathering for Lutheran World Relief kits and quilts will take place during worship. The layettes, school kits, health kits and quilts will be transported to Church World Services so that they may be shipped as quickly as possible.

STEWARDSHIP

“God’s Work – Our Hands” is the theme of this year’s Stewardship campaign. A brochure explaining where our money comes from and where it is distributed was mailed to all members recently. It included a Commitment Card for assisting members to think positively about their giving for the coming year. These cards should be returned on Sunday, October 15 so that the Finance Committee can plan the budget for next year.



Lutheran Disaster Response serves 42 countries and 26 states and territories. This year there has been no shortage of disasters all over the world that are being assisted through LDR.

Your support is needed more than ever to respond to these emergencies. Thank you for your generous response.

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

“I can do things you cannot do, and you can do things I cannot do. Together we can do great things.” -Mother Teresa

GOD’S WORK OUR HANDS

When families find their homes destroyed or must flee for their safety, soap and a towel rarely make the cut for what they can carry. Arriving in a refugee camp or other place of safety, they are scared, vulnerable and dirty. The simple items included in a PERSONAL CARE KIT provide much needed self—care, critical germ fighting supplies and the chance for our neighbors in need to regain dignity.



Our congregation met on Sept 17 to put together 70 Personal care Kits to be sent to LWR. Included in the kit was a towel, 2 bars of soap, toothbrush, nail clippers and a comb. Confirmation and Sunday Classes helped make quick work of the project. Thanks to Thrivent for a grant to purchase the towels and thank you to the congregation for all your donations.

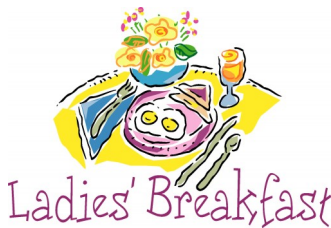
Many , Many hands made God’s work easy.

GOD'S WORK OUR HANDS





The monthly meeting of the Women of the ELCA will be held on Thursday, October 12 at 1:30 p.m. Jean Reed will lead the Bible study based on “I Will Bear Your Dark Side,” from Max Lucado’s book “He Choose the Nails.” All women of the church are invited to attend these meetings for inspiration and fellowship.



The Women’s Fellowship Breakfast
will be held at Texas Lunch at
8:30 a.m. on
Wednesday, October 18

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Property Committee: 1) The Property Committee has reviewed and accepted the proposal for the installation of a new sound/video system, at a cost of \$43,195, to replace the existing system and is recommending it to council for approval. 2) Research and advice on restoring the deteriorating stained-glass windows in the sanctuary is ongoing. 3) Will be hiring the Baxter Environmental Group to resolve the mold issue in the basement at a cost of \$2,148.

Worship & Music Committee: 1) September 17; God’s Work, Our Hands; 2) September 24-October 15, stewardship emphasis; 3) October 1, Harvest Home; 4) October 8, In-Gathering; 4) Due to scheduling conflicts, a Thanksgiving worship will not be held at a local retirement community this year.

Administration: A motion was carried to schedule a congregational meeting on November 19, 2023 to elect new council members. 2) A motion was carried to schedule a congregational meeting on January 21, 2024 for presentation of the 2024 budget.

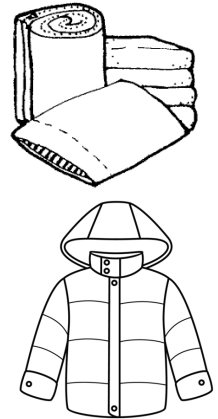
COUNCIL MEMBERS NEEDED In November we will be electing council members for a three year term to serve from January 2024 through December 2026. If you have an interest in being nominated or finding out more about this opportunity, please talk with Tim Gotwald.



NEIGHBORHOOD TASK TEAM

Sharing God's love in our community

When asked what items his clients request most in the Fall, John McCrae of Little Daisy's Closet answered with these suggestions: **sheets, blankets, sleeping bags and winter coats for men, women and children. We will collect these items from October 15 through November 19.** Donation items may be new or gently used, washed please if not new. Place donations in the designated bin located in Memorial Hall. The Homeless population in our neighborhood appears to be growing. Let's help these folks get through the winter. Any questions may be directed to Mary Gotwald 717-264-4759 or mgotwald@embarqmail.com



Laundry Day Review August 17, 2023 - 11:00 am – 1:00 pm - Spot Laundromat
Three volunteers from the Neighborhood Task Team joined with volunteers from Little Daisy's Closet to host this Laundry Day Event. Each person coming in with laundry was offered a card worth \$8.25, laundry detergent, dryer sheets, books for the kids, a bottle of water, a church pen, devotional booklet and food donated by Meals on Wheels. We told them we were from First and why we were there – sharing God's love. We

received many "You just made my day" smiles and "thank yous." Several asked if we had any Bibles in Spanish to share. One gentleman, especially moved by our kindness, came to ask about our church. We gave out forty laundry cards – a busy day at Spot. Please consider donating to support this outreach program. Next Laundry day is scheduled for Saturday October 28, 2023

Planning Ahead-The Neighborhood Task Team will again be hanging hats, scarves and mittens/gloves on the fence in front of First for our neighbors over the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday weekend. When you are getting those items out for the season, please donate unwanted items to this giveaway. We will need items for men, women and children. If you see any pre-season sales, remember this drive. A bin will be in Memorial Hall for your donations in mid November. Please share this information with your family, neighbors and friends.



RETREATS



FALL FOLIAGE DAY

Sunday, October 22, 1:00 p.m.—6:00 p.m. at Nawakwa
Sunday, October 29, 1:00 p.m.—6:00 p.m. at Kirchenwald
Bring your family and friends to camp for a fall afternoon!

Enjoy some of your favorite camp activities.

An evening meal will be provided.

Please register by October 13.

Registration Fee: \$15 per person (4 & under free)



November 5 (Oct 29-Nov 3 Online Bidding)

Nawakwa

2:00 p.m. Silent Auction

3:00 p.m. Live Auction

Dinner following Live Auction

All proceeds from the day benefit the Camping Corporation's Endowment Fund, making camping possible for generations to come! Please register for the in-person event by November 1. This is a free event, and includes an evening meal.

WOMEN'S CRAFT RETREAT

November 10-12

Nawakwa.

Projects are provided and you may bring your own to work on! Meals, lodging, and most supplies provided. Please register by November 1. Register early, this retreat will fill up! Registration Fee: \$175 (Arrive a day early for an additional \$40, no additional meals included)

**Eat
Sleep
Craft
Repeat**

ELCA YOUTH GATHERING

ELCA's National Youth Gathering is coming to New Orleans in July of 2024. Kate Nienstedt will be attending along with a group of five youth from Trinity Lutheran. Their first fundraiser is now underway. Kate will be selling Sweet Rollers cinnamon rolls (\$6), packs of 2 chocolate chip cookies (\$5), and bags of coffee (\$12) after church through October 22nd. See Kate or her mom Kristy to place an order. Items will be delivered on Sunday, November 5th. Thanks in advance for your support of this church wide youth event!



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.

Alyssa Ross	10/01	Laura Burkholder	10/17
Adam Pittman	10/03	Robert Hammer	10/23
Donna Ross	10/06	Maura Wilson	10/24
Isaac Buselli	10/08	Ruth Ann Brown	10/24
Paul Holbrook	10/08	Stephen Umbrell	10/26
Troy Hurst	10/09	Adam Grove	10/28
Emery Coy	10/11	Elliot Coy	10/29
Martha Carbaugh	10/11	Richard Ray	10/30
Kristy Nienstedt	10/15	Tracy Ross	10/30
John Sekel	10/16		

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**

FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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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

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ORG.

U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

CHAMBERSBURG, PA.

PERMIT NO. 137



Reformation Sunday

The anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation
will be celebrated on
Sunday, October 29 at our 10:45 worship.

In 1517 Martin Luther hung 95 theses on the doors
of Wittenburg Church. These were
discussion points of the practices of the
church and change needed.

*We wear red to remember the work of the
Holy Spirit as God continues to reform
our church and our lives today.*

The photo on the left shows the church doors along
with Pastor Nicholson and her friend when
Pastor was on sabbatical last summer.