

First News First

Volume 57, Issue 9

November 2023

A Thanksgiving Message

"Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, and his steadfast love endures forever." - Psalm 136:1

We have so much to be thankful for! Yes, there is bad news arriving daily from around the world and sometimes closer to home. But even in the midst of the bad, we can give thanks to the Lord, for he is GOOD! Every good and perfect gift is from above, and comes to us from God. Remember to pray for our local community of Chambersburg and the surrounding area. Pray for the righteous administration of justice, pray for peace in the streets of our nation's cities, pray for those who serve and protect both at home and abroad; pray especially for peace in our world, both in Israel and in Ukraine. And most importantly in our prayers, let us not neglect to give thanks to the God from whom all blessings flow.



"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." - Philippians 4:6-7

We have so much to be thankful for! In the midst of your feasting, football, family, shopping, and decorating, pause and Give Thanks to the Lord! In the midst of this crazy world, God has promised to never leave us nor forsake us. He said, "Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go" (Joshua 1:9).

This Thanksgiving, I am thankful to God for each of you! It is a joy and a privilege to be your pastor and to serve Christ and his people alongside of you. Solomon's Lutheran, Solomon's UCC and New Franklin Assembly of God churches have extended an invitation to join them for Thanksgiving Worship on Sunday, November 19 at 5:00 p.m. The service will be held at New Franklin Assembly of God Church (2355 New Franklin Rd, Chambersburg.) This is a wonderful opportunity to worship with our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. You are encouraged to bring a finger food to share with others after the worship. We are grateful to them for this invitation.

Richest Blessings and Happy Thanksgiving,

Pastor Jane Nicholson

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Worship

- October 29 Reformation Worship with Holy Communion. Wear Red.
- November 5 All Saints Sunday with Holy Communion and remembrance of the saints. (Remember to change your clocks!)
- November 12 Women of the ELCA Thank Offering Sunday. Honoring Veterans
- November 19 Worship with Holy Communion.
Congregational Meeting following worship to elect council members.
- November 26 Christ the King Sunday. Pastor Herb Spomer preaching.

Please use the newsletter insert to invite your family and neighbors to worship.



You are cordially invited to attend the

“Veterans Day Service”

On Saturday, November 11, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.

At Letterkenny Chapel and 2171 Carbaugh Avenue Chambersburg, PA

All Saints Sunday Worship - November 5, 2023 at 10:45

We will be remembering the saints who have blessed us in our daily living and in the past year have entered the church triumphant. Join us for this special day either at www.FELCC.org, facebook, or in person. If you have a loved one who has entered the church triumphant between November 1, 2019 and October 31, 2020 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.



Congregation Meeting, November 19, 2023

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

COUNCIL NOMINATIONS

First Lutheran Church is in need of persons who are willing and able to serve on the Congregation Council for the years 2024 through 2026. Four positions are needing to be filled. Currently Jeff

Dorand and Gerry Wilson have agreed to be nominated. Please pray about serving in this leadership capacity. If you are feeling called to serve on our governing body, please speak with Timothy Gotwarld (717-491-0611)

UPCOMING



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

November fruit items are collected in individual serving sized containers.

- Canned fruit / fruit cups in light syrup
- Dried fruit: raisins, plums, cranberries



The church offices
will be closed
November 23 and 24 for
the Thanksgiving Holiday.

Give Thanks

Giving Thanks... Last Spring a gentleman called our church asking for help with an electric bill. He let me know that his newborn son was hospitalized in Hershey and he had not been working for 22 days so he could be with him and the child's mother and sister. The next month he was needing help again. His son was still in the hospital. In October this same gentleman called again. His 6 month old son had died and he was encountering unexpected funeral expenses and again needed help with his utilities. It is not my normal practice to help anyone so many times so close together – but this was definitely an exception. Thank you for your support of the discretionary fund so that we could minister to this father and his family during the most desperate of times. May our gifts bring peace and comfort along with the love of God to our neighbors. Pastor Nicholson



STEWARDSHIP



Thanks to all who have returned their "Anticipated Giving Cards," for the year 2024. This information will assist the Finance Committee in making up the proposed budget for the coming year.

Special offerings during the month of November are designated for Lutheran Disaster Relief. With the current conflict in Israel, there is no question of the need for funding for relief supplies for people on both sides of the Gaza Strip. Thank you for being as generous as you are able.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"When God created us, He created us out of love. There is no other explanation because God is love. And He created us to love and be loved. If we could remember that all the time, there would be no wars, no violence, no hatred in the world. So beautiful. So simple." Mother Teresa



The monthly Bible study for the Women of the ELCA will be held on Thursday, November 9 at 1:30 p.m. in the meeting room. The topic will be "I Loved You Enough To Become One Of You," from the book "He Chose The Nails" by Max Lucado. Gertude Kampmeyer will lead the study, and all women of the church are invited to attend for fellowship and inspiration.

The December 14 meeting will be at 1:30. We will have a Christmas Tea, with a gift exchange and singing. All women of the church are invited for an afternoon of socialization.



The Women's Fellowship Breakfast will be held at Johnnie's Restaurant at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, November 15

The annual Thankoffering Service will be held on Sunday, November 12, with a representative from Women in Need bringing the message. Special offerings received that day will be forwarded to the national Women of the ELCA for programming support and scholarships for women.



COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Property Committee: 1) Bob Ranali reviewed and answered any questions regarding his proposal for replacing or enhancing the sound/video system. Council approved proceeding with this improvement at a cost of \$43,195 with funding as follows: Worship Enhancement account \$1,993.01; remainder of \$41,201.99 from the Williams estate. 2) Paul Holbrook is meeting with Lynchburg Stained Glass to obtain information and a cost proposal.

Seminar Sharing: 1) Marlin Maclay reported on the local retreat regarding working with other area congregations. There was a very positive feeling from this day retreat—lots of cooperation and communication. 2) Gerry Wilson reported on the 3-day seminar at United Lutheran Seminary in Philadelphia that he and Rose attended. This seminar focused on marketing your facility/building to the local community.

Evangelism Committee: Photos for the photo directory have been completed. Money has been donated to cover the costs.

Worship & Music Committee: The Jazz musicians have been rescheduled for February 4.

Stewardship Committee: The stewardship brochure has been mailed. Giving cards are to be returned at worship on October 15. Stewardship messages were completed this past Sunday.

Faith Formation: Council informally approved the pastor to proceed with a possible donation dinner/talent show fundraiser for youth attending the ELCA Youth Gathering.

Administration: A congregational meeting will be held on November 19, 2023 to elect new council members. Jeff Dorand, Gerry Wilson, Rose Wilson and Tim Gotwald will complete their 3-year term at the end of this year.

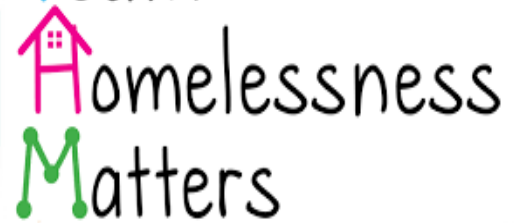
NEIGHBORHOOD TASK TEAM

Sharing God's love in our community

Coming Soon First Lutheran's Christmas Collection Homeless Matters

A representative of this organization will introduce us to their mission and work in early December at a service. Statistic from them: "There are over 300 unhoused adults and children in Chambersburg."

What can we do? Donate: in check or cash (envelopes will be provided in the December newsletter) and/or provide needed items.



Requested Items: Hygiene products-Travel size shampoo, body wash, washcloth, toothpaste, tooth brush, deodorant, razors, tissues, sunscreen, women's hygiene products.

Snack foods-small sizes or individual snacks size Crackers, cereal bars, granola bars, cups of fruit and applesauce, dried fruit, nuts, Chex Mix, peanut butter, tuna fish, Vienna sausages, gum, mints and nonperishable items that can be easily opened and eaten without a stove or microwave.

Bottled Water 8-16 oz., plastic utensils, napkins, can openers

Sleeping bags and small blankets-Single size, throws, (warm)

Socks for men, women and children

Hats, scarves, mittens, gloves for men, women and children

First Aid Kits suggested items-band aids /bandages in different sizes. Triple antibiotic cream, alcohol swabs, any other items are a bonus

A quote from their representative: "I assure you that anything that you do is very meaningful!! We give absolutely every single item we get and so every item has a meaning/cause and a person in need of it!! Thank you again."

Donations will be accepted in Memorial Hall beginning Dec.1 through Dec.31.

NTT Fall Collection

October 15 through November 19

What is needed to help our neighbors get through the winter months? Sheets, sleeping bags, blankets and winter coats for men, women and children. Accepting new or gently used.

Please launder used items before donating.

Place donations in the designated bin in Memorial Hall .



COMMUNITY



"LIU12 Franklin County Literacy Council has been providing Adult Basic Education and English Language instruction in our county since 1985. Right now, there is a wait list of over 70 individuals in the Chambersburg area that are waiting for services. Some of them have been waiting for a few months. LIU12 FCLC is seeking 10-15 tutors just to meet this need! Tutors must have a high school diploma and a growth mindset. Training and support are provided! Call Angie at 717-504-4459 x. 3504. "

THANK YOU

Dear First Lutheran Family,

I want to express my sincere gratitude for all the prayers, cards and well wishes after my hospitalization and surgery in late August. I am on the road to recovery! A special "thank you" to Pastor Nicholson for visiting me in the hospital.

God Bless you All!

Sincerely,

Bev Umbrell



To all that helped us through my recent open heart surgery:

We would like to offer our sincerest thanks to Pastor Nicholson for her phone calls and visits. We thank the congregation for all their cards, calls, and prayers. We felt lifted up in prayer from everyone. Thanks to the ladies from the ELCA for the beautiful red rose. Our dear neighbors, Ralph & Doris who helped us immensely with household duties.

With joyous gratitude,

Dalton & Julie Paul

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



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Nancy Lawyer	11/01	Mary Wingert	11/12
Rebecca Hoover	11/01	Peggy Stout	11/14
Allison Beaudry	11/04	Darlene Hurst	11/15
Debra Fleegal	11/04	Crystal McKenrick	11/17
Patti Nitterhouse	11/04	Bill Nienstedt	11/17
Joan Thorpe	11/05	Dorothy Hammer	11/20
Bill Coy	11/05	Gary Kennedy	11/21
Sharan Carbaugh	11/06	Nicki Johnson	11/21
Jeff Dorand	11/08	Barb Evans	11/23
Ann Horst	11/09	Andrew Hefner	11/25
Mary Gotwald	11/09	Bob Lawyer	11/25
Bryce Webber	11/12		
Debra Umbrell-Tressler 11/29			

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
 December
 Newsletter
 will be
 November 15**

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

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ORG.

U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

CHAMBERSBURG, PA.

PERMIT NO. 137

All Saints Celebration

Join us on All Saints Sunday,
November 5, 2023 at 10:45 a.m.
as we remember the saints
who have gone before us and
have entered into the church
triumphant during the past year.