

First News First

Volume 58, Issue 1

January 2024

Christmas 2023

Merry Christmas! Throughout the Season of Advent we have celebrated the Light of Grace with different Biblical figures. We have heard about Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love throughout the season as we light our advent candles and patiently and eagerly wait for the coming of our Lord.

I am grateful and blessed to be in a congregation who hears the gospel and responds. This fall you have generously given of your coats and winter clothing to Little Daisy's Closet. You have put up a second give and take box to supply food for the hungry. You have given to Homeless Matters to help school students who do not have a stable living arrangement. You have made and purchased hats, mittens, and coats to be given out in the cold weather of January. You have delivered poinsettias and caroled to our homebound members. You have cared for those grieving, even when you are one of them. Our congregation has shared over \$18,000 with local agencies who help those in need of a helping hand. There is so much need and you answer the cry. Thank you.



On that first Christmas, life was not easy for Jesus' family, either. Complete strangers worked to the best of their ability to offer warmth to him. We find Jesus in the manger, with minimal supplies, and yet the regular people of the day helped, just like the regular people of this day – you and me. Thank you. When we look at our neighbor in need, we see Christ in them. Hopefully they will see Christ in us as well.

Entering the Christmas Season gives me great joy – joy in celebrating with our congregation here at First and joy in celebrating with other Christian Churches in our community and in our world. We pray for peace in war-torn countries. We pray for comfort for those missing loved ones. We pray for hope that God will help us find ways to heal relationships. We pray for those suffering from depression and loneliness and those in need of physical healing. We pray for strength and courage as we face the unknown of what lies ahead in the new year.

Let us pause this Christmas from the hustle and bustle of the world and come together to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior. We hope to see you at worship.

For those traveling, we pray safety and joy in your gatherings;
for those in poor health, we pray healing and joy in each day;
for those in sadness, we pray an extra measure of God's presence;
for those despairing, we pray the blessing of hope;
and for all, we pray that Jesus will draw us ever closer to his heart. Amen

Source Unknown

A most blessed Christmas to you!

Pastor Nicholson

Worship SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 24	10:45 a.m. 7:00 p.m.	Fourth Sunday of Advent with Holy Communion Christmas Eve with Festive Music, Candle Lighting, and Holy Communion
Monday, December 25	9:30 a.m.	Christmas Day Worship with Holy Communion
Sunday, December 31	10:45 a.m.	Lessons and Carols Worship. Come and sing your favorites!
Sunday, January 7	10:45 a.m.	Baptism of Our Lord with Holy Communion
Sunday, January 14	10:45 a.m.	Worship
Sunday, January 21	10:45 a.m.	Worship with Holy Communion. The Annual Meeting will follow worship.
Sunday, January 28	10:45 a.m.	Scout Sunday
Sunday, February 4	10:45 a.m.	Epiphany Season Jazz Liturgy with Buzz Jones Quintet



A REMINDER FOR END OF YEAR STATEMENTS FOR 2023

Contributions that you wish to be credited to 2023 must be received in the church office NO LATER THAN December 25, 2023. Any contributions that are received after December 25th will be credited to 2024. Any questions, please contact Carol McCoy.



HOLIDAY CLOSING

Church office will be closed on Monday, December 25 and Monday, January 1. If you have a pastoral emergency during the Christmas Season, please call Pastor Nicholson at home. 717-753-3940.

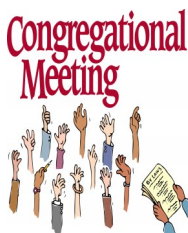


SUNDAY SCHOOL There will be no Sunday School, Confirmation, or coffee and donuts on December 24 or December 31.



ANNUAL REPORTS

are due to the church office by Tuesday, January 2 from the staff as well as the committees.



CONGREGATION ANNUAL MEETING

will be held on Sunday, January 21 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 2024. We hope you will be able to join us.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, November 19, 2023

Congregational
Meeting



Following worship, President Timothy Gotwald called the meeting to order, declared a quorum, and offered prayer.

There being no nominees from the floor, Tim presented two candidates to serve a three-year term on council beginning January, 2024. On a Tedd Sloan motion, second by Mary Beth McGraw-Warne, the congregation unanimously approved electing to council Jeff Dorand and Gerry Wilson, both to a second three-year term. Pastor Nicholson thanked the outgoing council members, Tim Gotwald and Rose Wilson.

On a Tedd Sloan motion, second by Mary Beth McGraw-Warne, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Rose Wilson, Council Secretary

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Property Committee: 1) Bob Ranali is acquiring the equipment necessary for the sound/video system installation. Council approved lining a pickleball court in Fellowship Hall, pending research with Strickler Insurance on acquiring liability waivers for players to sign prior to play. Gerry and Rose will undertake lining the court(s).

Evangelism Committee: The new photo directories have arrived.

Neighborhood Task Team: The team is in communication with a social worker at the high school to meet clothing needs for students in need. Little Daisies Closet will also be a source for meeting these needs. The Christmas collection this year will go to "Homeless Matters".

Administration: 1) Congregational meeting to elect council members is November 19. 2) Gertrude Kampmeyer has resigned as chair of the Stewardship Committee and as WELCA secretary.

Deacon's Report: Handbell festival is December 10. The handbell choirs will also be performing at Menno Haven on December 18. Children's Choir will be singing December 17 & 24. Guest musicians may be performing next month.

Social Missions Committee: Distribution of the Benevolence Line Item (\$18,000) and the Global Missions Line Item (\$10,000) for 2023 were approved.

WELCA



JANUARY BIBLE STUDY

The January Bible Study will be held on Thursday January 11 at 1:30 p.m. in Meeting

Room 1. We will continue our study of Max Lucado's book, He Choose the Nails, with Nancy Fricke as leader for the chapter "I Forgive You". All women of the church are welcome.



Ladies' Breakfast

The Women's Fellowship Breakfast

will be held at Greenvillage Restaurant at 8:30 a.m. on

Wednesday, January 17

**ALL LADIES ARE
WELCOME.**



The congregation marveled at the gorgeous display of quilts on Sunday, October 8, but if we want to continue this wonderful Lutheran World Relief project we will need more help. Please join us for an hour or two every Wednesday morning. You can plan quilt tops, sew squares together, help construct the quilt "sandwich", tie knots, iron sheets. Everyone is welcome, male or female, young or old. Call Janet Friend (717 360 1977) or Nancy Fricke (717 267 5097) for more information.



NEIGHBORHOOD TASK TEAM

Sharing God's love in our community



SCAN STUDENT CLOTHING ASSISTANCE NETWORK The Neighborhood Task Team has a new program: SCAN – Student Clothing Assistance Network. Kim Martin is heading this up, working with a Chambersburg School District social worker, Gabriela Juarez-Lemus. This program will receive requests from school district personnel to provide clothing for students that are homeless or find themselves

in emergency situations. On Sunday, January 14, Kim and Gabriela will explain this program to you during the service. They will also share ways that you can be involved in helping.

NEIGHBORHOOD TASK TEAM

Sharing God's love in our community



Thank you to the congregation and friends for your support of our recent collections: In October and November a collection of winter warmth items for Little Daisy's Closet and in December support for Homeless Matters. An on-going collection of Hats, scarves, mittens/gloves continues until January 12. These items will be hung on the church's fence in mid January. We are accepting new and gently used items for men, women and children. Please wash used items before donating. The collection bin is in Memorial Hall.



Check your calendars. First has the opportunity to help serve meals at St. Seraphim on Lincoln Way West just past the Salvation Army. The hours are 9-1 on Saturdays. The dates that help is needed are January 20, February 24, March 9, April 27, and May 4. Two or three people are needed on each day. To volunteer please contact Mary Gotwald at 717 264 4759 or mgotwald@embarqmail.com



UPCOMING EVENTS



Variety Show

Sunday, February 25 after worship.

Lunch will be provided.

Fundraiser for Youth Events.

If you would be willing to be part of the “Show” please talk with Kristy Nienstedt.

THANK YOU

THANK YOU We are grateful to the decorating committee for their work of preparing our sanctuary and entire building for Christmas. We are grateful to the Palmer family for the beautiful tree that we will be able to use for many years to come. This tree was given in loving memory of Bob Palmer who enjoyed and cherished the tree every year in the sanctuary. We would also like to thank Julie and Dalton Paul for purchasing the beautiful trees that Bob (and the rest of us) came to love for over 40 years. May God’s gift of everlasting love (evergreens) and light (Tree lights) remind us of God’s call to love and light in our world and in our relationships.



HELPING HANDS

2024 Council

Jeff Dorand
Barb Evans
Sally Herritt
Marlin Maclay
Mary Beth McGraw-Warne
Joyce Ray
Gerry Wilson
Pastor: Jane Nicholson
Deacon: Freda Dorand

Financial Secretary:
Carol McCoy



Christine Burkholder	1/01	Lori Palmer	1/20
James Feight	1/04	Zackary Peters	1/21
Marilyn Yaukey	1/06	Garry Shatzer	1/22
Celena Casseday	1/07	Chuck Evans III	1/22
Matthew McCoy	1/07	George Hammond	1/23
Norman Waltrick	1/08	Megan Yaukey	1/23
Ethan Yaukey	1/09	Nancy Fricke	1/23
Faye Ulrich	1/11	Janet Friend	1/25
Rose Wilson	1/12	Susan Wingert	1/29
Jeff Lensbower	1/15	Barbara Vinson	1/30
Amanda Rankin	1/18	Julie Paul	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



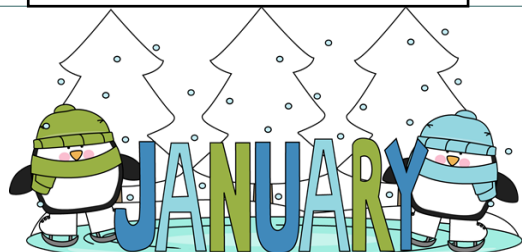
**Deadline for
The February
Newsletter
will be
January 15**

FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

43 W. Washington Street
Chambersburg, PA 17201
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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

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PAID

CHAMBERSBURG, PA.

PERMIT NO. 137

Christmas Eve Worship

December 24 at 7:00 p.m.

Includes Special Music,
Holy Communion,
and Candlelight

Christmas Day Worship

December 25 at 9:30 a.m.

