

# First News First

Volume 59, Issue 7

July/August2024

*How precious is your steadfast love, O God!*

*All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings. Psalm 36.7*

It is summer! People believe that it is a slower paced time. I do not find that to be true. Some of our routines change – but the pace remains constant.

Our interaction with God varies in different seasons of our lives. Maybe life is going along at a normal pace with the normal everyday things – nothing exceptionally wonderful and nothing exceptionally concerning. Those are good days for most people. But in the midst of those days, God continues to work in our lives.



Sometimes our interaction with God changes, but God remains the same. We call upon the Lord in need of healing for ourselves or a loved one. We pray to God for help with our human relationships. Hopefully we routinely call out to God for guidance in our lives and decision making. God is always there for us. We may put ourselves in a variety of different situations, but the steadfastness of our Lord remains constant.

It is important to remember that a lot of work goes into the ‘normal’ in our church life. And even more work goes into the ‘extras.’ The staff of First Lutheran works diligently throughout the year to oversee the ‘normal’ as well as the extras. What are extras? This summer they include things like:

1. Synod Assembly
2. Picnic with the Women of the ELCA
3. Rose Rent Sunday
4. Special Music in August
5. Attending ballgames together.
6. Orchestra Sundays
7. Outdoor worship and picnic
8. Pastor Dorsett’s 50<sup>th</sup> ordination anniversary recognition
9. The sending of youth to New Orleans for the youth gathering
10. The preparation for the trip to Guatemala and the speaker from Tree 4 Hope
11. Granting assistance to a family in our congregation settling into life in the United States.
12. The Women of the ELCA leading worship
13. The special worship message given by “Mrs. Noah” in August.
14. Hopefully a Kayaking adventure for our youth
15. The blessing of the backpacks, students and teachers
16. The Back to School Event
17. Hopefully the reception of new members

It does not appear to slow down in the summer at church. There is always something new and different. That is what gives us life. God is central to each of the ‘normal’ things as well as each of the ‘extras.’ But let it be said, that the staff of First Lutheran cannot do any of this alone. It takes all of us working together for both ‘normal’ and ‘extras’ to be successful and meaningful in our Christian life together.

Enjoy your summer and the new patterns it brings. Enjoy the new opportunities for expressions of your faith. Enjoy the ‘extras’ and the new energy for life that are created by our steadfast and merciful Lord.

Pastor Nicholson

<u>Summer Worship</u>	
June 30	9:30 Worship and Celebration of the 50 <sup>th</sup> Ordination Anniversary of Pastor Steve
July 7	9:30 Brief presentation from Tree-4-Hope, Communion, Youth Gathering Sending
July 14	9:30 Worship
July 21	9:30 Communion; Bill Nienstedt preaching
July 28	9:30 Orchestra Sunday; Bill Nienstedt preaching
Aug 4	9:30 Communion; Angela Zimmann preaching
Aug 11	9:30 Mrs. Noah (Karen Knight) from Sight and Sound Theater presenting the message, WELCA Thank Offering Service
Aug 18	9:30 Communion
Aug 25	9:30 Orchestra Sunday



**Back To School....** Come join us on Saturday, August 23 from 8:30 to 11:30 as we distribute socks and underwear to elementary age young people in our community. Please contact Beth Fairchild to let her know of your interest. Phone 717-816-5403 and e-mail [bethfairchild@gmail.com](mailto:bethfairchild@gmail.com)

**Thank you** to everyone on the Parish Life Committee for all of your wonderful work with providing meals and receptions for our congregational celebrations. Recently you have provided a lunch on Confirmation Sunday, the Picnic and on June 30 the reception for the Ordination Anniversary. Your work is greatly appreciated by all in our congregation. Pastor Nicholson



**The ELCA Youth Gathering** is taking place in New Orleans July 16 to 20. Kate Nienstedt from First Lutheran will be attending with other youth and adults from Trinity Lutheran in Chambersburg. This group is also committed to doing a service project in Louisiana prior to the start of the

gather. They will be leaving on Saturday, July 13 and on a bus overnight to arrive late on July 14 with their service day on July 15. On Sunday, July 7 the group will be joining us at First Lutheran during worship for a sending service. Please keep the group in your daily prayers. God's blessings to them for safe travel, meaningful service, wonderful friendships, as well as an incredible faith growing experience. God's blessing to you as you go on your way.

School will be starting in August and we will have a **Blessing of the Students, Teachers, and Backpacks** on



Sunday, August 18 at worship. We look forward to God's blessing on our new school year. Invite your friends or young families that have moved into your neighborhood during the summer.



**NEW MEMBERS** First Lutheran will be receiving new members on Sunday, August 25. If you or someone you know has an interest, please talk with Pastor Nicholson. [flcpastor@outlook.com](mailto:flcpastor@outlook.com) or 717-264-2015.



**The family of Rubens Paul** has arrived safely in the United States from Haiti and are temporarily living near the church. Rubens will be returning from military training on July 10 and their family will look for different housing then. If you would like to help with the cost of this temporary housing, you may make checks payable to First Lutheran and write in the memo line or on the envelope "Rubens Paul Family."

## CHURCH COUNCIL

### May/June Council Highlights

1. Approval of receiving money for the family of Rubens Paul to help as they travel to and are settling in the United States.
2. Approved financial assistance for those traveling to Guatemala in January. (Stouffer Fund)
3. Approved Karen Knight from Sight and Sound coming August 11 to perform "Mrs. Noah." Funds will be from Celena Casseday memorial and WELCA.
4. Celebrating Pastor Steve Dorsett's 50<sup>th</sup> Ordination Anniversary on June 30 at worship with a reception following.
5. Received synod assembly report from Gerry Wilson and Joyce Ray.
6. Tree beside the mailbox was removed.
7. Television screens have been installed and are being used for worship. Thank you to Scott Carbaugh and Tim Gotwald for their work with both the sound system and the video displays.
8. The Air Conditioning in the Sanctuary was repaired.
9. Updated the list of congregational members.
10. Cub Scouts are recruiting members. They requested financial assistance with individual registration costs totaling \$90 annually per individual. Approved scholarship money for \$45 per child for up to 10 children with a written request for assistance.





**Congratulations on your Confirmation**

**May 19, 2024**

Tyler James Johnson  
Samuel David Nienstedt  
Coleton Lee Rankin  
Brynn Catherine Sekel



Pastor Nicholson  
celebrating  
Joanne Caskey's  
90th Birthday!

# UPCOMING EVENTS

First Lutheran Church Presents:



## **Mrs. Noah**

Performed by Karen Knight  
of Sight and Sound Theater

Join us

Sunday, August 11

9:30 Worship

43 West Washington Street  
Chambersburg, PA 17201

717-264-2015

[www.FELCC.org](http://www.FELCC.org)



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Vacation Bible School

@ St. Luke

**July 7-11**

5:30 - 8:00 pm

Ages 4-12 years

Sign up online via St. Luke's website  
[stlukechambersburg.org/2024-vbs](http://stlukechambersburg.org/2024-vbs)



**St. Luke 2695 Luther Dr. Chambersburg PA 17202**

# WELCA

# CIRCLE

*Leadership*

## The ELCA Leadership Circle

Because of the generous contributions and the extraordinary support from our congregation to the Synod and the ELCA as a whole, First Lutheran has become part of the Leadership Circle group of the ELCA. The Leadership Circle is a group of the ELCA's most generous and invested partners. On the website <https://elca.org/LeadershipCircle>, you will find updates, information and stories from the ministries you support: ELCA Fund for Leaders, ELCA World Hunger, Lutheran Disaster Response, Global Mission and ELCA Where Needed Most. Thank you for your continued generosity, involvement and support! <https://elca.org/LeadershipCircle>



*Ladies' Breakfast*

## **The Women's Fellowship Breakfast**

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

Wednesday, July 17 & August 21 at  
Classic Family Diner  
177 S. Main St., (next to Capital Theater)  
717-797-1043

**ALL LADIES ARE  
WELCOME.**

# NEIGHBORHOOD TASK TEAM

*Sharing God's love in our community*

## Neighborhood Task Team - What You Are Doing

Volunteers from the Task Team, the congregation and friends continue to serve at Little Daisy's Closet and at St Seraphim Soup Kitchen.

Laundry events-First and Little Daisy's Closet together meet our neighbors at Spot Laundromat to help with their laundry expenses. Next event, Sunday June 20, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Helping school district students through the SCAN (Student Clothing Assistance Network) program.

Filling the Give and Take Box to provide food and personal care items for our neighbors.

Preparing for the Back to School Event on Saturday August 24 9-11 am.

Providing a "little library" for children who are at Spot Laundromat with their family. Children may pick a book or two to take home.

Collecting Birthday Bags or some items for the birthday bags to take to Little Daisy's Closet. These bags are a party in a bag for children under 12 and adults over 80. Contact Mary Gotwald for requested items. Collecting clothing for Little Daisy's Closet for every age, household goods, adult underwear and socks, towels, bedding, personal care items and children's toys..

Listed here are some opportunities for you to serve our Lord and spread Christ's love in our community. Please join us in His service. Thank you for all of your contributions and support of these outreach efforts. If you have any suggestions or questions contact Mary Gotwald at a Sunday service, or call 717-264-4759 or email at [mary@gotwald.org](mailto:mary@gotwald.org).



Donations may be placed in the bins in Memorial Hall. Monetary or check donations may be placed in the offering plate or dropped off at the church office. Please designate NTT and what the donation is for.

Thank you for your support of these outreach efforts. Please join us!

**Important upcoming dates: Work Day June 24, 2024 9-11 a.m. NTT Room (previous nursery) NTT Meeting July 8, 2024 1:30 pm Meeting Room # 2**

# NEIGHBORHOOD TASK TEAM

*Sharing God's love in our community*

## BACK TO SCHOOL EVENT

The BACK TO SCHOOL event is August 24, 2024 from 9-11am. It is an exciting morning for the children and families in our neighborhood! We are collecting canvas/heavy plastic store bags (like you buy at Giant, Weis, etc. for a dollar.) Each child will receive a bag to put their items in. You can drop them off in the church office during the week, or in the Back to School basket on Sundays. We have about 50 and need at least 100.



If you want to make a donation to buy briefs, gray t-shirts for boys and camis for girls, please mark your check/envelope for the Back to School Event. In addition, you can buy these items in children's sizes: small, medium and large and drop off in the church office.

We are in need of volunteers for the day of the event from 8:30am-11:30am. It is a lot of fun and wonderful to see the smiling faces of the children! Please consider this opportunity and contact Beth Fairchild: 717-816-8122.

Thank you for all you have done and are doing to support the children and families in our neighborhood!

# THANK YOU

Dear Members of First Lutheran,

Thank you so much for your in-kind donation of the video mixer to our non-profit theatre.

We appreciate your generosity!

Sincerely,

Ashley Byerts, Artistic Director at the Carlisle Theatre



# HELPING HANDS

## 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 September Newsletter will be August 15**







Trevor Plasterer	7/2	Gage Boock	7/24
Laim Coy	7/6	James Sloan II	7/24
Nancy E. Wildeson	7/6	Joyce Ray	7/24
Madison Wenger	7/14	Nancy George	7/24
Emersyn Plasterer	7/18	Shirley Leister	7/24
Mark Nicholson	7/21	Donald Mayer	7/28
Margery Lau	7/23	Brynn Sekel	7/31

**2024 Council**

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



Collin Hammond	8/5	Judith Etter	8/20
Catherine Craven	8/7	Susan Rote	8/22
Christian Burkholder	8/7	Dalton Paul	8/25
Jeffrey Goodman	8/7	Colin Hefner	8/26
Gary Fleegal	8/11	Kira Coy	8/26
Kenley Craven	8/15	Georgann Overcash	8/28
Marianne Kennedy	8/16	Tracey Savary	8/29
Christopher Lau	8/18	Carol Leach	8/31
Michael Dent	8/19		

**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.

**FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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

 @FirstEvangelicalLutheranChurch

 @felccyouth



**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



*Pastor Steve Dorsett  
will be celebrating his  
50<sup>th</sup> Ordination Anniversary  
with us on  
June 30 at our 9:30 worship.  
A reception of Danish pastry and  
fruit will follow.*