

First News First

Volume 60, Issue 1

January 2025



Happy
New Year

It is difficult to believe that we are entering the year of 2025. It does not feel like a quarter of a century since we were all concerned about our world and technology when the date turned to 2000. God saw us through those days and will see us through another year as well.

2025 is kicking off on a bright note as we are sending missionaries from our congregation to Guatemala to share the love of Christ with those who live there. This team of people from Salem Lutheran and First Lutheran will be spending 9 days traveling to Tree-4-Hope to assist in activities with the Girl's School, the Orphanage, and some Elderly Folks as well.

The group from our congregation includes: Rose and Gerry Wilson (trip coordinators), Donna and Mike Ross, Nancy Hamilton, Cheryl Christman, and Joyce Ray. We will keep them in our prayers while they prepare, travel, and work with all of the people there. We look forward to hearing their stories of encounters with Jesus and all of God's children. First Lutheran will be having a sending service for them during worship on January 12. We are grateful that the Stouffer Fund (for foreign missions) was available to help with partial funding for the trip.

Also, in the month of January, we are looking forward to the celebration of Epiphany and the arrival of the three kings, the Baptism of our Lord Remembrance, our Congregation Meeting, followed by a soup and salad lunch, and Scout Sunday.

May the New Year bless you with unwavering faith that guides your steps, illuminates your path, and fills your heart with hope and strength throughout the year ahead.

Pastor Nicholson

Worship Schedule

Tuesday, December 24	7:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve with Festive Music, Candle Lighting, and Holy Communion
Wednesday, December 25	9:30 a.m.	Christmas Day Worship with Holy Communion
Sunday, December 29	10:45 a.m.	Lessons and Carols Worship. Come and sing your favorites!
Sunday, January 5	10:45 a.m.	Epiphany Worship with Holy Communion
Sunday, January 12	10:45 a.m.	Baptism of Our Lord Guatemala Mission Team Blessing
Sunday, January 19	10:45 a.m.	Worship with Holy Communion. The Annual Meeting will follow worship. Soup and salad lunch will follow the meeting.
Sunday, January 26	10:45 a.m.	Scout Sunday

2024 OFFERINGS Please present any offerings you would like to have credited to the 2024 giving year by Sunday, December 29.



STEWARDSHIP THANK YOU

Your response to the annual anticipated giving is greatly appreciated. If you have not yet submitted your giving card, please return it to the church office.



HOLIDAY CLOSING

Church office will be closed on Tuesday, December 24 and Wednesday, December 25.

We will also be closed Tuesday, December 31 and Wednesday, 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 or coffee and donuts on December 29.

ANNUAL REPORTS

are due to the church office by Monday, January 6 from the staff as well as the committees.

CONGREGATION ANNUAL MEETING

will be held on Sunday, January 19 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 2025. We hope you will be able to join us. Soup & Salad will be served in the Fellowship hall following the meeting. A sign-up sheet will be available at a later date. Free Will offering will be accepted.



NEIGHBORHOOD TASK TEAM

Sharing God's love in our community



The Neighborhood Task Team (NTT) will again be hanging hats, scarves and mittens/gloves on the fence in front of First for our neighbors over the Martin Luther King holiday weekend. As you are getting those items out for the season, please donate unwanted items to this outreach. We need items for men, women and children. If you see any seasonal sales, please remember this drive. There is a collection bin in Memorial Hall for your donations. Please share this information with your family, neighbors and friends. Last January our neighbors truly appreciated picking up items to keep them warm. We need volunteers for this event to hang the hats, scarves and mittens on the fence on January 18, 19, or 20th. If you are interested, please contact Mary Beth Warne.

The NTT will have a workgroup to organize everything on Monday, January 6, 2025 at 10:00am in the NTT room. NTT will meet at 1:30pm on January 6, 2025 in the Parlor. Thank you for your generosity and concern.

Thank You



Give and Take Box:

Please continue to donate canned and other unperishable foods for the Give and Take Box. Our neighbors appreciate these items so much!

SOCIAL MISSIONS



GUATEMALA WISH LIST January 14-22 we have a team of folks traveling to Tree-4-Hope school for girls in Guatemala. They have received an extensive wish list of donations to bring with them. Here is an update on that list: Children's Tylenol and Motrin (chewable or liquids); Children's chewable vitamins; Adult Tylenol and Motrin

(generic brands are acceptable on all medications); kitchen tea towels and hot pads; large containers of spices: Garlic Powder, Onion Powder, Italian Seasoning, Oregano, Cinnamon, Black Pepper, Cash donations are also welcome for purchasing supplies.

WELCA



The Women of the ELCA (WELCA)

will gather for Bible Study and fellowship on Thursday, January 9 at 1:30 p.m. in Meeting Room 1. Jane Love will be the study leader.

All women of the church are welcome!



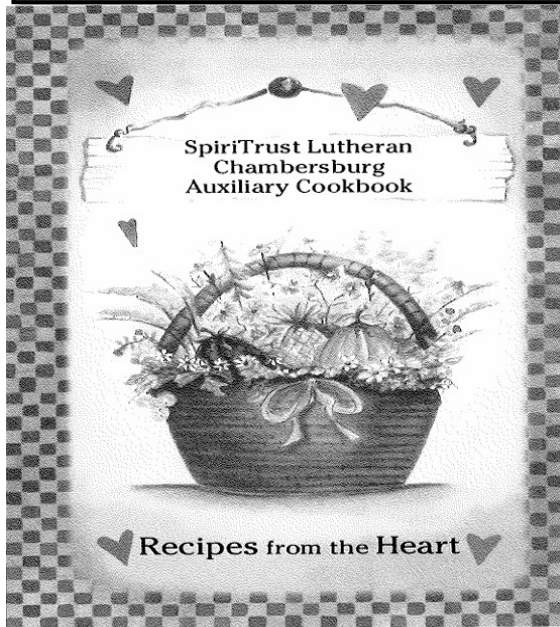
Ladies' Breakfast

The Women's Fellowship Breakfast

will be held at 8:30 a.m. on January 15 at Johnnie's Restaurant

All Ladies are Welcome!

SPIRITRUST



FUNDRAISER SPIRITRUST LUTHERAN CHAMBERSBURG AUXILIARY

Favorite recipes have been donated from Lutheran Church Members. Cookbooks make wonderful gifts!

\$15 Each

Please contact Mary Beth McGraw-Warne
At (717) 372-8282



**Volunteer's
Needed!**

Would you help a neighbor in need during 2025? Consider volunteering for Spiritrust Lutheran Home Care & Hospice. Make friendly visits to hospice clients in Franklin County, or make supportive phone calls to grieving families, or sew memory bears. For more information please call Cathy Sweeney, Volunteer Coordinator at 570-599-5390.

HELPING HANDS

2024 Council

President: Joyce Ray
 Vice President: Mike Ross
 Secretary: Gerry Wilson
 Treasurer: Sally Herritt
 Pastor: Jane Nicholson
 Deacon: Freda Dorand
 Martha Carbaugh
 Jeff Dorand
 Gary Kennedy
 Marianne Kennedy
 Mary Beth McGraw-Warne



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.

Christy Burkholder	01/01	Zackary Peters	01/21
James Feight	01/04	Chuck Evans	01/22
Marilyn Yaukey	01/06	Garry Shatzer	01/22
Matthew McCoy	01/07	George Hammond	01/23
Norman Waltrick	01/08	Megan Yaukey	01/23
Ethan Yaukey	01/09	Nancy Fricke	01/23
Faye Ulrich	01/11	Janet Friend	01/25
Rosemarie Wilson	01/12	Susan Wingert	01/29
Jeffrey Lensbower	01/15	Barbara Vinson	01/30
Amanda Rankin	01/18	Julie Paul	01/30
Tanya Nitterhouse	01/19	Jim Brown	01/31
Kathleen Getaz	01/20	Karin Woods	01/31
Lori Palmer	01/20		

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

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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

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.