Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

First Edition
FEBRUARY 2015

God is our strength and shield.
Proclaiming Jesus Christ, God's Word, is our life and mission.

First Evangelical Lutheran Church
est. 1765

ANNOUNCEMENT OF SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2015, at 11:30 a.m.

(immediately following the late service)

As many of our members are aware, for the past several years, the Congregation Council and the Property Committee have been discussing the current condition, accessibility and layout of our physical plant and how that is supporting, and, in some cases, limiting, our ministries.

At its January meeting, the Congregation Council voted to recommend that the congregation engage Thomas Ludwig Architect LLC to facilitate a "master planning process" for the congregation, at a cost not to exceed $19,000. Mr. Ludwig would work primarily with the Building for Mission Steering Committee to help identify mission and programming needs and prioritize renovations and maintenance projects in light of those needs. This process would build on the building survey and property condition assessment performed by CSL during 2013.

Because the cost of this engagement is not budgeted for 2015 and exceeds $10,000, congregational approval is required. Please plan to participate in the special congregational meeting on February 22 as we discuss and vote on Council's recommendation!

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday

8:00 a.m. – Holy Communion

9:15 a.m. – Sunday Church School

10:30 a.m. – Holy Communion

1st Saturday of month

5 p.m. – quiet service of Holy Communion (chapel)

Upcoming Worship Highlights

Epiphany V (Saturday, February 7, and Sunday, February 8): As part of our year-long anniversary celebration, the Rev. Jean Kuebler, a former member of First, will be preaching at all three weekend services (Saturday at 5 p.m. and Sunday at 8 and 10:30 a.m.). Please plan to stay for a special reception after the 10:30 a.m. service on Sunday!

LENT WORSHIP PREVIEW

On **Ash Wednesday, February 18**, you will have three opportunities to begin your Lenten journey with worship:

7:30 a.m. – spoken Holy Communion with the imposition of ashes

12:15 p.m. – spoken Holy Communion with the imposition of ashes

7:00 p.m. – sung Holy Communion with the imposition of ashes

On **Wednesdays during Lent (February 25, March 4, 11, 18, and 25)**, we will gather for a light soup supper at 6:15 p.m. followed by Lenten Vespers (evening prayer) at 7 p.m.

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Upcoming Events at First:

- **Souper Bowl of Caring** — Sunday, February 1 — Please see page 14 for more details.
- **Eaken Piano Trio — *Fine Arts*** — Sunday, February 8 — 3 p.m. — See page 7 for more details.
- **Baby Shower for Aaron & Malin Sunstein** — Sunday, February 15 — 11:45 a.m. — See page 4 for details.
- **Youth Service Day at Claremont Nursing and Rehabilitation Center** — Sunday, February 22 — 3-5:30 p.m. — See page 14 for more details.
- **FLF Ice Skating for Socks** — Saturday, February 28 — 2-4 p.m. — See page 15 for details.
- **Perry & West Cumberland Conference Meeting** — Wednesday, March 11 — 8 a.m.–2 p.m.
- **Karen Electra Christianson Organ Recital — *Fine Arts*** — Sunday, March 22 — 3 p.m. — Please see the March issue of the *First Edition* for more details.
- **Easter Egg Hunt** — Saturday, April 4 — 10-11:30 a.m. — Please see the March issue of the *First Edition* for more details.

February 2015

Additional volunteers, please see page 4.

ACOLYTES (10:30 A.M.):

02/01 Sarah Raphael
02/08 Tanner Eshenour
02/15 Madelynne Staley, Josh Staley, Ben Galbraith
02/22 Mariella Guadalupe

Ash Wednesday (7 P.M.):

02/18 To be determined

NURSERY (10:30 A.M.):

02/01 Kathleen Hall, Alecia Staley, Josh Staley
02/08 Cheryl Henderson, Jeri Fitzsimons, Joanna Cannone
02/15 Cindy Allgyer, Cindy Markle, Elise Erickson
02/22 Kathleen Hall, Robin Orner, Ben Galbraith

GREETERS (10:30 A.M.):

02/01 Dave and Cindy Jones
02/08 Karen Hollen and Monica Frederick
02/15 Norma Greider and Nancy Ingram
02/22 David and Elaine Haag

FLOWER DISTRIBUTION

(10:30 A.M.):

02/01 Cindy Jones
02/08 Nancy Baish
02/15 Cindy Allgyer
02/22 Karen Longenecker

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

(8 A.M.)

02/01 Sandy Kohler
02/08 Rich Bigelow
02/15 Rich Wood
02/22 Roger Williams

(10:30 A.M.)

02/01 Roger Williams
02/08 Taylor Miller
02/15 Hope Miller
02/22 David Erickson

Ash Wednesday (7 P.M.):

02/18 Caryn Carr

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

(10:30 A.M.):

02/01 Sandy Kohler and Sandy Jumper
02/08 Karen Hollen and Josh Staley
02/15 Sam Orner and Madelynne Staley
02/22 Kathy Brunie and Kathleen Hall

Ash Wednesday (7 P.M.):

02/18 Rich Wood and Jan Bigelow

LECTORS:

(8 A.M.)

02/01 Rich Bigelow
02/08 Bill Schirmer
02/15 Sandy Jumper
02/22 Jan Bigelow

(10:30 A.M.)

02/01 Karen Galbraith
02/08 Donna Chestnut
02/15 Ann Jordan
02/22 Nancy George

Ash Wednesday (7 P.M.):

02/18 To be determined

February 2015

USHERS (10:30 A.M.):

02/01 Donald Grell, head, Sterlen Sheaffer, Sam Simmons
02/08 Blanche Drumheiser, head, Matt Drumheiser, Robin Orner, Hope and Taylor Miller (only if needed)
02/15 Cindy Jones, head, Don Fraley, Ethel Simmons
02/22 Yvonne Karper, head, Bob Baker, Rhoda Bear

Ash Wednesday (7 P.M.):

02/18 Ken Egolf, head, Jered Hock, Cheryl Henderson, Don Grell, Annette Nickey

YOUTH USHERS (10:30 A.M.):

02/01 A. J. Cannone
02/08 Ian Galbraith
02/15 Tanner Eshenour
02/22 Ian Stum

COMMUNION SETUP

(8 A.M.):

Monica Frederick and Sue Simmons

(10:30A.M.):

02/01 Hope Miller and Janet Jacobs
02/08 Janet Jacobs and Hope Miller
02/15 Roxanna Houtz and Debbie Reitzel
02/22 Cindy Allgyer and Ginny Brennan

WITH OUR MEMBERS

WEDDING

Robert Carothers Nickey
Brianna Lynn Hershey
January 3, 2015

Congratulations!

FIRST COMMUNION

Colton Gillingham
January 4, 2015

BAPTISM

Frankie James Yocum
son of Frankie and Elizabeth Yocum
baptized — January 11, 2015

Please join us on Sunday, February 15, following the 10:30 a.m. worship service for a light luncheon and baby shower for Aaron and Malin, who are expecting their first child in early April!

Come join us in celebration and share in the joy of this blessed event!

If you have any questions, please contact Robin in the church office at 249-3310 or at home at 245-9844.

THIS MONTH'S BIRTHDAYS!

Bloomquist, Jack	2/1
Shenk, Taylor	2/1
Drumheiser, Phillip	2/2
Mundis, Dale	2/4
Beil, Jack	2/5
Burke, Jane	2/5
Yocum, Frankie	2/6
Shughart, Joseph	2/10
Baish, Nancy	2/11
Chestnut, Donna	2/11
Shumberger, Amanda	2/12
Weaver, Aaron	2/12
Wood, Richard	2/12
Evans, Dorothy	2/13
Mentzer, Marsha	2/13
Allgyer, Elinor	2/15
Over, Sophia	2/15
Baker, Robert	2/18
Zeiders, Trevor	2/19
Jumper, Benjamin	2/20
Allgyer, Jeffrey	2/21
Demnicki, Brian	2/22
Maurice, Donna	2/23
Seibert, Charles	2/23
Drumheiser, Blanche	2/24
Houtz, Roxanna	2/24
Ingram, Nancy	2/24
Leber, Lisa	2/24
Lorenz, Richard	2/24
Shank, Christopher	2/24
Asten, Rex	2/25
Yelk, Peter	2/25
Kratzer, Lisa	2/26
Over, Cristal	2/26
Hamilla, Daniel	2/28
Johnston, John	2/28
Vovakis, James	2/28

12 9 3 CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday — Friday

8:30 a.m. — 4:30 p.m.

Reminder:

Deadline for the March newsletter is Sunday, February 15.

Please note that the church office will be closed on Monday, February 16, for Presidents' Day.

UPDATED MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORIES AVAILABLE IN FEBRUARY!

Look for updated copies of the First Lutheran Church Membership Directory to be available in the narthex and the church office in February.

DECEMBER WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Week Of	Sunday 8:00 a.m.	Sunday 10:15 a.m.	Total Weekly Attendance	Offering
Dec. 1 — 7	32	128	205	$10,771.76
Advent Vespers	31 (7 p.m. Wed.)	*Quiet Spoken Holy Communion*		14
Dec. 8 — 14	28	115	171	$10,640.61
Advent Vespers	28 (7 p.m. Wed.)			
Dec. 15 — 21	31	122	326	$6,062.34
	Advent Lessons & Carols	139 (4 p.m.)	*Advent Vespers*	34 (7 p.m. Wed.)
Dec. 22 — 28	35	93	476	$4,967.71
Christmas Eve	52 (4 p.m.)	156 (7 p.m.)	140 (10 p.m.)	

Offerings reported in the above totals represent the following funds: Benevolence, Current, Plate, Sunday School, Initial Offerings, and The Lutheran.

FROM OUR MINISTER OF MUSIC

Dear All at First Lutheran,

Planning music for worship often leads me to ponder and grapple with passages from scripture. As I read again each year the appointed texts for each Sunday in the three year cycle of readings known as the lectionary I invariably find myself struck by something in the passages that I had not previously considered. While planning music for this upcoming Lent, the scriptural focus on the *myriad* ways in which God's love has been revealed to us has caught me off guard. After all, isn't Lent supposed to be the most solemn and penitential time of the church year? Should we really be focusing so much on love during Lent? Our hymnody reflects this emphasis as well:

O Love that will not let me go, I rest my weary soul in thee.
New advent of the love of Christ, will we again refuse you?
What Wondrous Love is this, O My Soul?

Upon further consideration, however, as we turn our attention towards Christ's great sacrifice for us, the emphasis on this most serious and important of all Loves this Lent could not be more appropriate. Sometimes love is difficult. Sometimes love requires sacrifice. On the Second Sunday of Lent, the Chancel Choir will sing a glorious anthem by the English Composer John Ireland which sets John 15:13, a verse that expresses this idea most succinctly:

Greater Love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

I hope you will join us for Holy Communion each and every Sunday this Lent as part of your own Lenten discipline and live into the fullness of this great story of our faith.

Yours,
Aaron Sunstein

FIRST
EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH
21 S. Bedford Street
Carlisle, PA 17013
717-249-3310
www.firstlutherancarlisle.org

FINE ARTS AT FIRST

Presents The

EAKEN PIANO TRIO

The **Eaken Piano Trio** will perform in concert on Sunday, February 8, at 3 P.M. at First Lutheran Church. The performance by the Grammy-nominated recording artists will feature the music of Beethoven, Bach, Schumann, Boccherini, and Brahms.

Marking its 29th season of concert appearances this year, the Eaken Trio will be returning for its fourth concert at First Lutheran Church, one of its favorite venues. It has performed in Carnegie Hall three times, traveled extensively throughout the United States and Canada, and toured in Europe and Asia ten times. The ensemble performed twice in China, serving as a Pennsylvania Ambassador of Music from the USA.

Critically acclaimed for its music-making, enthusiastic performances, and audience-building residencies at colleges and universities, the Trio may be heard regularly on classical music radio stations, including National Public Radio's *All Things Considered* and *Performance Today*. It has two NPR programs entitled *Home for the Holidays* which have been aired on over 100 stations nationwide during the last 14 holiday seasons. The goal of these programs is to help raise awareness of the homeless problems in America. The Eaken Trio has released 12 CDs, including their Grammy-nominated album, *Home for the Holidays*. Visit the Trio's website at www.eakenpianotrio.com to learn more about the ensemble based here in Central Pennsylvania.

Sponsored by *Fine Arts at First*, the concert is free to all. A freewill offering will be received, and a reception will follow the concert where the ensemble's recordings may be purchased. Plan to join us for an afternoon of music during the cold of winter. There is nothing like inspiring music to warm the heart!

C.A.R.E.S. HOST VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Each night from March 1 through 31, 2015, First Lutheran will host homeless guests on behalf of the Carlisle Area Resources for Emergency Shelter (C.A.R.E.S.). This has been our privilege for many years, and it beautifully fulfills the dream of the late Phillip McClelland, a valuable member of our faith community. First is a great shelter location with its proximity to Carlisle's downtown and the availability of its easily accessible Festal Hall. Most of all, opening our door is a magnificent opportunity for our congregation to model the active gracious love of our wonderful Lord Jesus. Not only did Jesus invite anyone into His presence, but he deliberately approached anyone with needs, which, depending on circumstances, can be all of us.

First's responsibility is to provide nightly church host volunteers to open the church at 8:30 p.m. and remain present until 10 p.m. If you are interested in partnering as a church host volunteer, please contact Taylor Miller at 241-6424, 448-5363, or taylormiller@comcast.net.

Experienced church host volunteers and individuals desiring to serve for the first time will receive blank calendars for March 2015. After individuals indicate their availability, and return calendars to Taylor, he will distribute a church host volunteer schedule. The goal is to finalize the schedule by February 15, 2015. Volunteers will always be able to adjust the schedule among each other, if unexpected circumstances arise.

The extent to which volunteers have offered themselves to serve, year after year, encourages many people who see clearly the love of Christ, through the action of His people. Thank you all, very much!

"Let brotherly love continue, do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels, unawares." Hebrews 13:1-2

First Lutheran Church History

This article is the first of a series celebrating First Lutheran's history and our 250th anniversary as a congregation. Articles will continue to appear throughout our anniversary year of 2015.

IN THE BEGINNING

First Lutheran's traditional foundation date is 1765. We do have a 1762 reference to a preacher intending to "set out" for Carlisle, and yet another 1766 reference noting that "there are two or three congregations (the principal place is Carlyle) adjoining the mountains, which are situated forty, fifty and sixty miles from the nearest ministers." There is, however, no documentary evidence (such as a written charter) for 1765, and these two references present the strongest evidence that there were professing Lutherans in Carlisle at a relatively early date. But the 1765 date tradition is an old one, first mentioned in the first half of the 19th century. Earlier histories of First Lutheran cite the foundation date as being according to "the charter of the Borough of Carlisle." This reference is in reality to an 1840s reprint of the original 1750s Carlisle Borough Charter, which included an "updated" contemporary description of the town. Nonetheless the 1765 date was generally accepted; the council minutes of April 2, 1878, formally adopted a seal for the church that included the words "organized 1765."

Lutheranism itself came to America long before First Lutheran's foundation. Again, and again by tradition, there were Lutherans settling in present day New York on Manhattan Island in 1625. The first specific reference to them came, strangely enough, from a Jesuit priest, Father Isaac Jogues, who noted their presence in the New York area in 1643. Small numbers of Swedish and Finnish settlers came to settle in the Delaware area around present day Wilmington in the 1630's, supported in their colonization efforts by King Gustavus Adolphus. The king's battlefield death at Lutzen during the 30 Years' War in Europe probably contributed to the eventual languishing of colonization effort and the colony's absorption by the Dutch.

Pennsylvania Lutheranism may be said to have really begun with the arrival in America of Henry Melchior Muhlenberg in early 1742. Although he landed in Georgia where Lutherans had settled as part of James Ogelthorpe's colonial experiment, by November of 1742 he was in Philadelphia. Then the largest city in the English colonies (and probably the largest English speaking city in the world outside of London), Muhlenberg was a zealous and indefatigable missionary and organizer. Both attributes were needed. The Penn family, Pennsylvania's proprietors, had advertised heavily in Europe for colonists for their "Holy Experiment." Drawn by prospects of availability of cheap (or free) land for settlement, religious toleration, and the desirability of escape from political turmoil and continental wars (often fought in German speaking territories), German speaking Lutherans emigrated to and settled in the colony in fairly large numbers. By 1750 there were an estimated 20,000 of them in Pennsylvania, swelled by continuing immigration to an estimated 75,000 by 1775.

The Germans were a part of the "second wave" of immigration to the Carlisle area, the first having been the Scotch-Irish, who brought with them their Presbyterian faith. Beginning in the 1750s-1760s German speaking Lutherans began to spread from the already settled eastern regions of Pennsylvania to the more western areas such as York and Hanover. Carlisle, some 30 miles beyond York itself, was at this time the wilderness, if not quite the frontier. Whatever its status it was sparsely settled; in 1760 there were only 1,501 "taxable" (probably white males and heads of households) in what is now present day Cumberland County.

In such a sparsely populated basically subsistence area, the few Lutherans could not afford to construct their own worship structures, or support a pastor if, indeed, one was available to be called, which was not the case.

Under these circumstances, Carlisle Lutherans first joined with members of the Reformed faith to construct a "Union" church. It was a union only in terms of the physical structure; both faith traditions maintained their own membership and services, using the building alternately for their own worship. In Carlisle the "Dutch Meeting House" was located at what is today 144 South Hanover Street. Obviously this "Union" church arrangement had its advantages. Both groups had a worship space, both groups held theologically similar doctrines, and there was a great deal of intermingling. Often a household consisted of a Lutheran husband and a Reformed wife, or vice versa. Moreover, both groups came from the same or similar geographic areas in Europe, and very importantly, were German speaking, as opposed to English speaking.

In a sense they were a community, somewhat isolated physically and served for the most part by itinerant ministers or self styled preachers. Henry Melchoir Muhlenberg noted one such planned visit by another minister. In 1762 "His plans, God willing, to arrive at Lancaster September 16, preach there September 17, stop over at Yorktown [York] September 18, and dedicate the church there September 19. Then on September 20 he intends to set out for Carlisle and to be in Swatara Cave and Quitobehela on September 21 and 22."

As can be seen serving Lutherans in the near frontier environment of Carlisle was a challenge, and not only one due to distance. There were no seminaries for training pastors; all the ordained Lutheran pastors, including Muhlenberg, obtained their training in Europe. There was no organization to train or regularize preaching or to examine candidates for the ministry. The result was that there were many individuals who claimed to be able to preach, baptize, confirm, marry and perform funerals — the functions expected of a pastor. Muhlenberg and others attempted to remedy this situation in part by forming an association of ministers to train, license and ordain ministers and bring organizational order to the various Lutheran sects and churches. The organization, which we would call a Synod today, was officially organized in 1748 and known by various names but eventually (in 1781) as the Evangelical Lutheran Ministerium of Pennsylvania and Adjacent States. The Ministerium, as it was commonly to be known, would play a large part in First Lutheran's history, as all of its pastors were to be either ordained ministers, candidates for ordination, or licensed by the Ministerium.

The Ministerium's first specific mention of importance to Carlisle came at its 29th convention held October 6, 1776, when it noted the ordination at Yorktown [York] of the Rev. Jacob Goering. In the following year's minutes (of May 25, 1777), Muhlenberg noted "In the afternoon I also had the pleasure of talking with the Rev. Mr. Goering....He serves some seven small congregations across the Susquehanna, the principal village being Carlisle." Pastor Goering's assignment to Carlisle and the other congregations during his ministry (Carlisle; Carlisle Springs; Churchtown; Frankford; Salem; Ege's Forge, now Boiling Springs; Papertown, now Mount Holly Springs; New Kingston; and Plainfield) indicates that by 1777 Lutherans were sufficiently well established in the Carlisle area to warrant a pastor, even if he still "rode circuit" a great distance to minister to his congregations. It was a situation which concerned Muhlenberg as he continued "he [that is Goering] is an awakened and promising worker, still without a family, but he is already complaining about his chest, which is not surprising inasmuch as he has to preach and catechize a great deal in his scattered congregations, is obliged to travel by day and by night in all kinds of weather, and must be satisfied with coarse country fate, to which, indeed, he is not as unaccustomed as one who has studied in Europe, for he was brought up here and is used to the conditions of the country."

First Lutheran had its first pastor of record.

250th Anniversary News

OUR 250TH ANNIVERSARY

Our church, which was founded in 1765, actually predates the founding of our nation! As part of our celebration of this auspicious occasion, we are reaching out to our community through various organizations. Our goal is to select one organization or cause each month and provide them with at least 250 items donated by the members of our congregation.

For example, in January, we collected a variety of items for Carlisle C.A.R.E.S. In February, our goal is to provide a minimum of 250 gift cards for our military servicemen and women. In March 250 canned hams will be collected for Project SHARE. We will continue this outreach program throughout the year and hopefully make a difference in people's lives.

Special church services and programs will also be presented at various times during the year in celebration of our 250th Anniversary. The Rev. Jean Kuebler, who now serves the Big Spring United Lutheran Church in Newville, has graciously accepted our invitation to preach at our services the weekend of February 7-8, 2015. A special reception will be held after the 10:30 a.m. service that Sunday. We hope to see you there!

250th COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Thanks to everyone who donated items to Carlisle C.A.R.E.S in January! We received a nice variety of the requested items and will likely exceed our goal of 250 items. These items will be distributed to those folks who are unable to provide for themselves.

While doing additional research for our February project, we discovered that, instead of phone cards, what is really needed and wanted are gas and food gift cards for stores such as Weis, Giant (which also has gas) and Karns. We will donate the gift cards we collect to Pennsylvania Wounded Warriors (not to be confused with the Wounded Warrior Project). PA Wounded Warriors is an all-volunteer group, headed by Mrs. Helen Sajer from Mechanicsburg. To find out more about them, check out their website at www.pawoundedwarriors.org.

Our goal in February is to collect 250 (or more!) $10.00 gift cards for PA Wounded Warriors. You can purchase the card yourself and bring it to the office, where there will be a collection box – or you can donate cash or checks. If you write a check, please make it out to First Lutheran, and on the memo line write "250th Feb. project." If you have any questions please contact Kathleen Hall at 243-3621 or email her at gotomimi@aol.com.

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH MONTAGE

Crystal Hunt, a well-known local landscape photographer who has done many local montages, has created a montage for First Lutheran in recognition of our 250th Anniversary. Beginning February 8 you will be able to view and order your own copy of this commemorative piece.

Prices and Sizes:

Matted 8 X 10	$ 15.00
Framed 8 X 10	$ 30.00
Framed 16 X 20	$ 75.00
Canvas 16 X 20	$ 65.00
Canvas 24 X 30	$ 97.50

If you have any questions please contact, Darlene Ramond - phone 717-440-3218 or email darlene.ramond@gmail.com.

A sincere thank you to all who participated in the First Evangelical Lutheran Church 250th Anniversary calendar sale. Because of all of your support the project was indeed a success.

~ The 250th Anniversary Committee ~

CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Listed below are highlights from the congregation council meeting held in January.

- **First Lutheran Church Master Planning Process** — As part of the FLC "Building for Mission" process, Tom Ludwig from Thomas Ludwig Architect LLC, provided a PowerPoint presentation on his proposal to facilitate a master planning process for First Lutheran.

  This process is designed to help FLC prioritize future renovations and previously identified physical plant deficiencies to maximize spending value. After the presentation and further discussion, the council approved a motion to recommend to the congregation that TLA be engaged, for an amount not to exceed $19,000, to facilitate the FLC Master Planning Process. Because the amount is not budgeted for 2015 and exceeds $10,000, the Council also voted to schedule a special congregation meeting on February 22, 2015, to discuss and vote on the recommendation. For additional information, please refer to page 1 of this newsletter.

- **FLC Staffing Reconfiguration Plan** — After several months of discussion, the council approved a staffing reconfiguration plan that will assist FLC with performing its mission now and in the near future. One of the first actions associated with this plan is for the hiring of a part-time pastor for approximately 50 hours per month to assist with visitation, serve as supply pastor, and serve in additional capacities as Pastor Leber identifies them.

- **FLC Website** — Cindy Markle and Frank Ramond, in their role as our webpage designers, provided the council a status update of our website that is still under construction. In order to assist the Communications Task Force with this process, information and sign-up sheets were distributed for the purpose of identifying Content Manager Volunteers to update specific information for committees/groups. Committee Liaisons were asked to take this information to their assigned committees and forward the information back to the Communications Task Force.

Roger Williams,
Council President

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Adult Forum
Guest Speaker Coming!

The February and March schedule for the Adult Forum is as follows:

- **February 1 and 8** — Richard Wood will present a history of First Lutheran Church.
- **February 15** — We welcome the Rev. Dr. Kristin Largen as our guest speaker. Dr. Largen in on staff at the Gettysburg Seminary and has recently been named Interim Dean. Her topic of discussion will be *Feminist Theology for Women and the Men Who Love Them.* Do you love God and desire a deeper relationship with God? Do you love women AND men? If so, then you are going to love feminist theology! Many people misunderstand the word "feminist" and also misunderstand the term "feminist theology." It's not just for and about women, and it certainly doesn't discriminate against men or denigrate them! Instead, it seeks to promote a richer understanding of the many ways God is in relationship to us, and encourages us to live out of that loving relationship in all of our relationships in the world. It celebrates all people in their diversity, and invites us to look with joy and wonder on the God who creates us all, and is still at work in us today. Please join us in the nave. All adults and older youth are welcome!
- **February 22 – March 29** — Taylor Miller will lead us in a study of the book *Forgiveness: A Lenten Study.*

Please join us in the lounge on Sunday mornings at 9:15 a.m. (Except on February 15 when we will meet in the nave.) All adults are welcome!

BROWN BAGS AND BIBLES WITH PASTOR LEBER

Thursdays from 12:15-1 p.m. in room 16 (across from the office)

Bring your lunch (or not!) and join us as we study the scripture readings for the upcoming Sunday.

WOMEN OF THE ELCA

Bible Study — The WELCA group will not meet on Wednesday, February 4, but will meet on Saturday, February 14, with the evening group at 9:30 a.m. for a combined meeting and bible study. The meeting will take place in Room 16. All women of the church are invited to attend. Our Lenten study will begin on Wednesday, February 25, at 9:30 a.m. in Room 16 and will continue on Wednesdays, March 4, 11, 18 and 25.

Thankoffering — We would like to thank all those who contributed to Thankoffering. We were able to send $775.00 to the ELCA to help women and children everywhere.

'Round-the-Tree Carol Sing — We enjoyed the carol singing to the music of our own First Lutheran musicians. We also enjoyed the piano playing of our younger members. Thanks to Babette and all our musicians! What a buffet, which was put together by Annette Nickey and our wonderful cooks. Such good soups! The decorations by Annette were terrific as usual. So festive! Thank you Annette for sharing your talents and to all who donated food. It was a perfect Christmas celebration. If you didn't attend, you missed a very enjoyable evening! The WELCA group displayed a wonderful gift table for all to purchase items. We collected $237.20 for our love offering. Thank you!

Rummage Sale Update — A reminder that donations for the spring rummage sale may be brought to the church on Tuesdays from 9 a.m. — 3 p.m. Beginning May 1 (two weeks prior to the sale), donations may be brought in at any time. **Please NO** baby cribs, strollers or swings, electronics, skies or winter clothing. All electrical items must be in clean, working condition. We will accept spring and summer clothing, toys, jewelry, household items, collectibles, etc. Furniture will be accepted beginning May 1. We are in need of brown grocery bags and brown bags with handles. Thanks!

Quilts — We are always in need of single, flat, dark-colored sheets and other cotton or cotton-blend material for the making of our quilts for Lutheran World Relief. Monetary donations are also appreciated.

Prayer Chain — Would you like to be included in our prayer chain? Our volunteers call another member on the chain to ask for prayers for different individuals. Please call Mary Ann Schirmer at 243-1110 if you would like to be included in this ministry.

HELP LWR AND ENJOY LWR FAIR TRADE

Lutheran World Relief
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. LASTING PROMISE.

At Christmas members and friends of First Lutheran supported Lutheran World Relief by ordering nearly $1,300 worth of LWR coffee, tea, and chocolate.

Our next order will close in mid-March. It is scheduled to be here in time for Easter. Watch our March *First Edition* for details.

For an internet view of how Lutheran World Relief uses its share of fair trade dollars and our other contributions, type in <LWR.org/fair-trade> and then click on "News and Resources." Some of our dollars also help the Equal Exchange Cooperative. To see how our money is used there, type in <equalexchange.coop/blog>.

NEWS FROM OUR SISTER PARISH IN EL SALVADOR

The following letter was received via e-mail from our Sister Parish by Patty Gillingham, our Sister Parish contact.

12/23/2014 Pastor Fernandez wrote:

"CHRISTMAS TIME OF LIGHT AND HOPE (RECONCILIATION, LOVE AND PEACE).

The arrival of Christmas as always, feel an atmosphere of happiness, joy, religious fervor, union, reconciliation, peace and love. It is a time of hope that pass borders, cultures and beliefs, a special period gives people around the world a new opportunity to remember the past, live the present and prepare the future with hope and regret. Also time is right to remember the beginning of redemption with the birth of the Savior.

Christmas party invites reflection on God's love comes to men and women. The Christ who took part in the history of men, two thousand years ago, lives and continues his saving mission in the same human history. Christmas is a divine and human event, which will always be present, while a man - a woman on earth.

Christmas is the most celebrated festival in the world. Even atheists and those who make wars stop and celebrate, in its way, this event of salvation. In many countries of the world as it is also in our Central America, much violence, insecurity and our countries groan of pain and the poor go to the extreme of despair and pursue the American dream, seeking survival lives, only Jesus serves as a shield and defense. Therefore, Christmas presents majestic as real promise of hope for the world.

Allow you and your family have space for reflection on your life and your environment. Christmas is the season of hope. To properly build it into our homes need to leave space in these weeks to contemplation of reality (people and circumstances), a deep reflection about the direction being taken by our life (values and motivations), the energy we spend on mutual donation (out of myself and serve others).

In the baby Jesus really is God's Word that is light in the dark and abundant life.

HAVING A CHRISTMAS CUTE WITH YOUR FAMILY, FRIENDS AND JESUS. HAPPY NEW YEAR 2015, PROTECTED AND BLESSED BY GOD!

Pastora, Belinda Fernandez

The Divine Redeemer Lutheran Church"

12/23/2014 Patty wrote in response:

Dear Pastor Fernandez,

Thank you very much for your wonderful Christmas letter and pictures. We are always very happy to hear from you and see the pictures. We are very grateful for all of our brothers and sisters in Christ at Divine Redeemer. We pray that you have a happy year in 2015 with no volcanic eruptions and earthquakes. Everyone went through much fear and worry, but your strong faith in God guided you through all this turmoil.

You wrote a very heartfelt message that I will share with everyone at First Lutheran church in our monthly newsletter. Yes, Christmas is the beginning of redemption with the birth of our Savior and time to reflect on our many blessings especially the gift of salvation.

Attached is a picture of our Sunday School students and teachers. We send you many hugs and smiles.

Sincerely,

Patty Gillingham

FIRST LUTHERAN YOUTH PAGE

Souperbowl of Caring

February 1 is Super Bowl Sunday and once again First Lutheran's youth group will collect canned goods and money to benefit Project SHARE. Look for collection sites following both worship services. If you'd like to write a check, please make it out to First Lutheran Church and write "Souperbowl of Caring" on the memo line. Thank you for supporting this nation-wide anti-hunger campaign.

Service day at Claremont

February 22, 3-5:30 p.m.

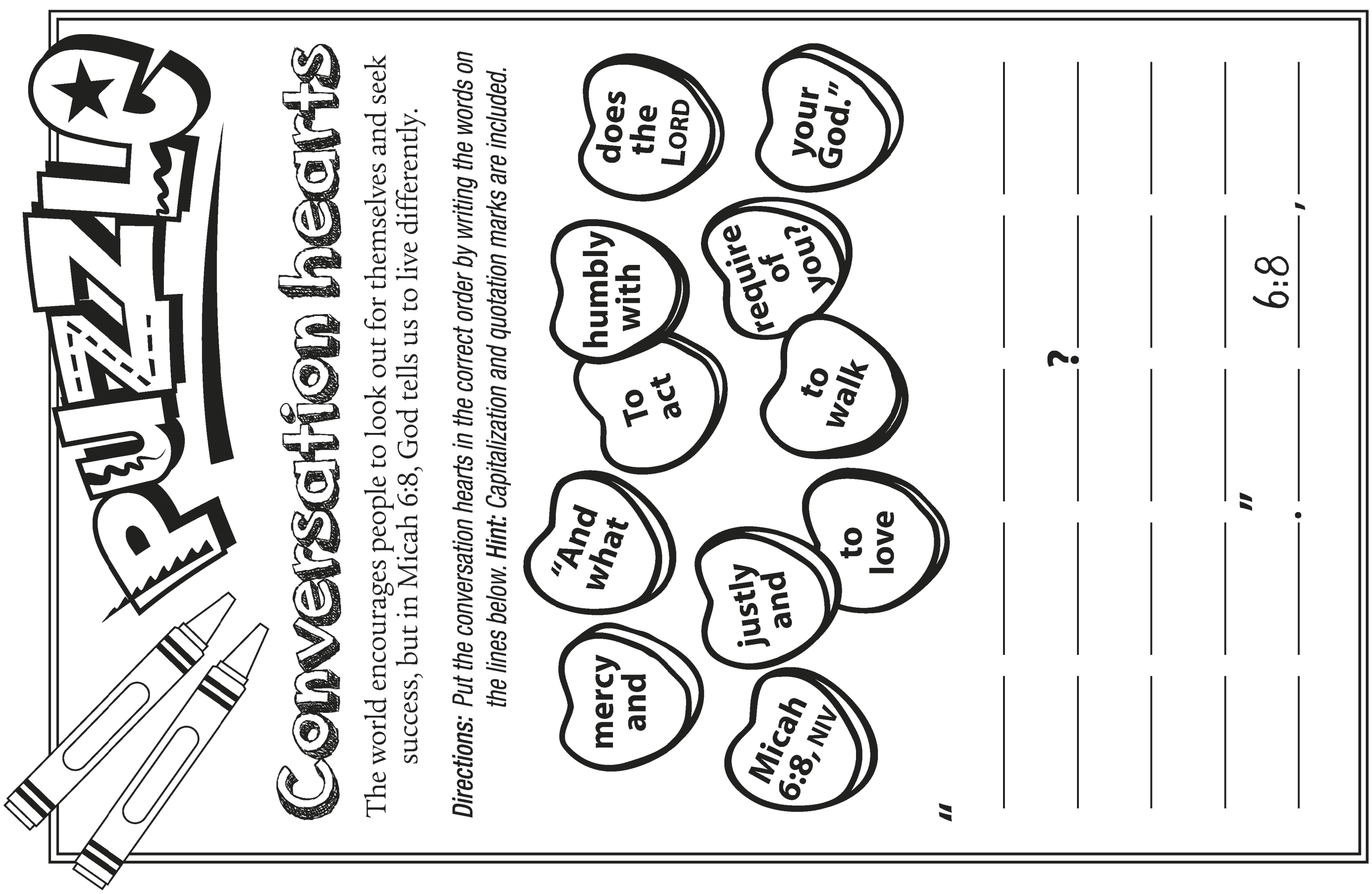
(Grades 3-12)

We will meet in the church parking lot at 2:45 p.m. and travel to Claremont Nursing and Rehabilitation Center for an afternoon of service to the elderly. Following our service activity, we will return to the church for pizza.

Youth event

Looking Ahead:

March 15 — 4-6 p.m.—7th—12th graders will start planning for Youth Sunday; 3rd—6th graders will do a fun project; family meal at 5:30 p.m.



Answer: "And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." Micah 6:8, NIV

Skating for Socks

This month we are asking everyone to share some warm socks with Carlisle C.A.R.E.S. Our ice skaters will be collecting warm cozy socks for the needy. New socks of all sizes can be placed in the Project SHARE boxes already in the narthex and church office entrance. We will collect socks until our ice skating party which is

Saturday,

February 28

2 - 4 p.m.

Twin Ponds West

If you wish to go, meet at First Lutheran Church at 1 p.m. All children must have a parent/guardian with them. The fee for skaters age 7 & up is $7.00. The fee for skaters age 6 & under is $4.00. Skate rental is $3.00. Don't forget your hat, scarf, gloves & warm knee socks! Sign up below or in the church office (249-3310).

FLF ICE SKATING

Names_____

Phone #_____

Need a ride? How many?_____

First Lutheran Fellowship TAI CHI

We will hold Tai Chi classes on Saturdays in Festal Hall from 3 - 4 p.m. for the month of February. Our instructor is Scott Mangol. Join in any Saturday and wear comfortable clothing. Bring a friend. Freewill donations will be accepted for each session to help remunerate the instructor. Please contact Blanche Drumheiser at pbmdrum@gmail.com or (717) 258-4408 if interested or for more information.

My sister, Ruth Oakes, and I would like to extend our thanks to Pastor Leber, the ladies of WELCA, Annette Nickey, Charlotte Tritt and the rest of our wonderful congregation. Thanks for the cards, visits, cookies, poinsettia, prayer shawl and all the prayers and love being shown to our mother, Blanche Bousum. The visits seem to raise her spirits and the poinsettia and prayer shawl brighten her room

Blessings to all,
Sue Mentzer

Dear Friends,

Thank you for the delicious Christmas cookies and the lovely poinsettia which was delivered today (Dec. 26).

I am really enjoying the cookies—so many varieties! The poinsettia adds a festive Christmas touch to my home.

I deeply appreciate your kindness.

~ Cynthia Porter ~

Dear Friends at First Lutheran,

Thank you for all the prayers, cards and visits to Larry when he was in the hospital for pneumonia. Also thank you to Pastor Leber for visiting him and praying for his health. We really appreciate the caring and compassionate people at First Lutheran.

~ Ruth Ann Ciecierski ~

First Edition
FEBRUARY 2015

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If you have a son or daughter who is currently away at college and would like to receive a copy of the *First Edition* newsletter, please submit that student's name and address to the church office. We will be more than happy to put any student's name on our mailing list!