



FIRST EDITION DECEMBER 2019

We worship, welcome, witness, teach and serve in the name of Jesus Christ.

FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
21 SOUTH BEDFORD STREET, CARLISLE, PA 17013

Advent and Christmas worship at First Lutheran

“Unfailing Light” Holy Communion
Wednesdays, December 4, 11 and 18, at 7 p.m.
(preceded by a light soup supper at 6:15 p.m.)

We are introducing a new setting of communion this Advent, written specifically for evening. Come, be renewed and blessed by beautiful music, candlelight, and Christ’s body and blood! If your schedule permits, join us before worship (at 6:15 p.m.) in the Martin Luther Room for a light soup supper. No RSVP required!

A Festival of Lessons and Carols
Sunday, December 15, at 4 p.m.

Through bible readings, hymn singing and anthems by our Chancel Choir, we will re-tell the story of how God sent Jesus to us as a little baby. Join us for this beautiful service and for the light supper and ‘Round-the-Tree carol sing that follows at 5:15 p.m.!



Christmas Eve
Tuesday, December 24, at 4 p.m., 7 p.m. and 10 p.m.

All three of our Christmas Eve services include communion and candle-lighting as we sing *Silent Night* together. Our 4 p.m. service is a spoken liturgy with several Christmas carols. Worship at 7 p.m. is child-friendly (all ages are welcome, of course!). Our 10 p.m. service is a full festival Christmas celebration, with music by our Chancel Choir.

Building to Serve All God's Children Capital Campaign Update (as of November 25)



Total campaign commitments:	\$604,415
Total commitments paid to date:	\$432,395
Unpledged/"as able" gifts given to date:	\$55,417
<u>Total given to date:</u>	<u>\$487,812</u>

Thank you for your continuing generosity and support!

SIGN UP FOR E-GIVING!

E-giving is an automatic transfer program that allows you to make financial contributions to First Lutheran electronically. E-giving authorization forms and lists of frequently asked questions are available in the church office and under the Members tab on our website (www.firstlutherancarlisle.org). Your authorization form, along with a voided check, should be dropped off in the church office or mailed to:

First Lutheran Church
Attn: Robin Orner
21 South Bedford Street
Carlisle, PA 17013



Doing some end-of-year tax planning?

During the past few years, First Lutheran has received several monetary gifts which qualified as “**qualified charitable distributions**” from the donors’ IRAs. A “qualified charitable distribution” is a distribution from an IRA owned by an individual age 70½ or over and paid directly from the IRA to a qualified charity (which First Lutheran is). Please consult with your tax advisor to determine whether you are eligible to make a “qualified charitable distribution” and whether doing so would be advantageous to you. If so, please consider making such a distribution to *Building to Serve All God's Children!*

Information About Building Access

When coming to the church during the week, please enter and exit our building through the door to the new addition, which is unlocked from approximately 7 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, and for evening meetings and rehearsals. For safety and security reasons, the door on the east end of the Christian Education wing remains locked at all times, including Sunday morning, and is to be used as an emergency exit only.

The current door/doorway on the new addition remains a significant challenge. It was not installed with the correct hardware (panic bars, etc.) or the automatic openers needed for full handicap accessibility. Because of the height of the soffit above, we cannot just retrofit the door with openers. We continue to work with our architect and vendors on a solution. The door currently locks with a deadbolt. If, for some reason, you find yourself still in the building after hours, after that door has been locked, please do not unlock and exit through it – there is no way for you to lock the deadbolt behind you and you will leave the building unsecured. Consider this scenario an “emergency” and exit the door at the east end of the Christian Ed wing by the pastor’s office. **Thank you for helping to keep our building and all the folks who use it safe and secure!**



COOKIES! COOKIES! COOKIES!

WELCA and the Social Ministry & Global Outreach Committee are working together for our annual Christmas cookie campaign, and we need LOTS and LOTS of cookies!

Cookies will be delivered to our homebound members, to the Cumberland County Prison and to truckers passing through our town far from family and friends, giving them a little taste of home. **Cookies are due in Festal Hall kitchen by Sunday, December 15.** Your continued support of this program is very much appreciated. Thank you!

BOWLING

Sunday, January 5

2 — 4 p.m.

Midway Bowling Center

1561 Holly Pike, Carlisle

ATTENTION YOUTH AND FAMILIES! You are invited to join us for a fun afternoon at the Midway Bowling Center on Sunday, January 5, from 2 – 4 p.m. The event is free, including the shoe rental; however, we will accept donations to help offset the cost.

In order that we have enough lanes reserved, please RSVP by emailing Robin at secretary@firstlutherancarlisle.org by end of the day on Thursday, January 2.

Benefit Concert for Safe Harbour

Sunday, December 22

3 p.m. at First Lutheran

First Lutheran member, Dawn Bennett, will be performing in a benefit concert for Safe Harbour, a local homeless shelter.

An offering will be received during the concert for Safe Harbour.

For more information contact Dawn at dcben1@verizon.net or 774-364-0862.





COMMUNITY CARES HOST VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR JANUARY 2020

In January, First will serve as the host congregation for the Community CARES shelter for individuals experiencing homelessness. It's been our privilege to serve this vital local ministry as a host congregation (and as a financial supporter) for many years. As we focus on the fullness of Advent and the celebration of the coming of our King of kings, Jesus, we are preparing to welcome His creation to our building for shelter from winter weather.

We are currently recruiting church host volunteers. These individuals are present approximately two evenings per month, from **8:30 until 10 p.m.**, to welcome men (maximum of 30) who will spend the night in Festal Hall. A professional volunteer and a male overnight volunteer, both provided by Community CARES, will also be present, and the church host volunteer serves to answer any questions they have regarding First and the shelter area. Our goal is to finalize the schedule by December 15. Please consider serving again, or for the first time, in gifting God's own with the love of a warm, dry place to spend the night. For more information, please contact Patty Gillingham at 717-939-9382 or by email at pgillingham1@yahoo.com. Your time and support is greatly appreciated!



THANK YOU, THANK YOU

We thank all those who helped, baked or donated to our Fall rummage and bake sale. We raised \$1,429.75 at the rummage sale and \$147.85 at the bake sale. Because of you, we are able to give to many charities.

To all those who gave on Thankoffering Sunday, we thank you. We were able to send \$787.00 to aid women and children in difficult situations.

Thank you to those who gave for personal care kits. We were able to assemble 154 kits for Lutheran World Relief and send \$272.78 for shipping costs.

The Prayer Shawl Committee has yarn available for anyone who would like to knit hats, mittens and scarves for those in need. Also prayer shawls are available for anyone in need. If you know of someone who would appreciate a shawl, please stop by the church office. For more information contact Ginny Brennan at 717-249-6687.

Christmas Gift Table at 'Round-the-Tree Carol Sing December 15

We will have many new and like-new items on our gift table for holiday shopping. There will also be stainless ware for sale. Please take time to check out our jewelry and other items. Part of the proceeds this year will go to someone in need and the rest to United Way for heating assistance. (They are calling for a cold winter so this will be much appreciated!)

We will be at the table following the 10:30 a.m. service, after Lessons & Carols and following the 'Round-the-Tree Carol Sing.

SUMMARY OF ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING

First Lutheran held its 2019 annual meeting on Sunday, November 10, 2019, at 12:25 p.m. There were approximately 66 voting members in attendance. Listed below are the actions taken during the meeting.

The minutes of the 2018 annual congregation meeting were reviewed and approved with a few corrections.

The congregation elected five members to council. Roger Michelle Fisher, Karen Hollen, Steven King, Michael Luther and Sam Orner were elected to three-year terms. **The congregation also elected** Leann Erickson, Ann Roeder and Roger Williams to serve on the 2020 Nominating Committee.

The Treasurer's Report was reviewed and approved.

The congregation received and approved First Lutheran's 2020 proposed Mission Spending Plan of \$654,800.00 and the proposed Capital Projects Budget of \$70,000.00.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 1 p.m.



THANK YOU PASTOR LEBER!

At its November meeting, Council thanked Pastor Leber for her hard and enduring work throughout the “Building to Serve All God’s Children” project. She was our point person and spent many long hours with the architects, contractor and sub-contractors on a daily basis. There were many setbacks over the course of the project and she handled them with grace and genuine concern. She performed above and beyond to ensure we obtained a building addition that will help our church to grow and prosper.

Hold the Date!

Community Block Party

Saturday, May 9 — 11 a.m.—2 p.m.

Help us to welcome the neighborhood into our new building!

Volunteers will be needed to run games, donate baked goods, host food and drink stations, etc.

Fill a box for under our Christmas tree!

Boxes are available in the High Street narthex, the Atrium (upper level), and outside the church office for you to take home and fill during Advent with needed items for clients of the Domestic Violence Emergency Shelter and Carlisle Family Life Center. (A list of needed items is attached to each box.) You can add an item each day as part of your Advent devotions or fill the box on a Christmas shopping trip.

Then simply wrap your box, bring it to worship on Christmas Eve, and put it under the chrismon Christmas tree in the nave!



Help us celebrate the birth of Jesus by sharing with our neighbors in need!



**Sunday, December 15
5:15p.m.**

Martin Luther Room

Invite your friends and family to enjoy a delicious supper and to sing some festive Christmas carols!

Please sign up in the church office (717-249-3310) if you'd like to sing or play a favorite Christmas song and/or if you'd like to play music with the band. All instruments are welcome!

You may also sign up in the church office to volunteer to help decorate, provide a food item or help serve at the event.

And don't forget to check out the WELCA gift table! Proceeds will benefit a local charity.

Poinsettia orders and wreath sponsorships are due in the church office by Sunday, December 15.

Order forms are available in the High Street narthex, on the counter in the upper level of the Atrium and in the church office or you may call the church office at 717-249-3310.

Meetings & Events

December 2019



- Sun., Dec. 1** — 11:30 a.m. — Hanging of the Greens
4 p.m. — Service of Remembrance
- Tues., Dec. 3** — 7-9:30 p.m. — Cantate Carlisle Rehearsal
- Wed., Dec. 4** — 9:30 a.m. — WELCA Bible Study
6:15 p.m. — Soup Supper — *Martin Luther Room*
7 p.m. — Advent Mid-week Service
- Fri., Dec. 6** — 7-9:30 p.m. — Cantate Carlisle Rehearsal
- Sat., Dec. 7** — 9 a.m.-12 p.m. — Carlisle Homeschool Children & Youth Choirs Rehearsal
3-4 p.m. — Tai Chi — *Festal Hall*
8 p.m. — Cantate Carlisle Concert
- Sun., Dec. 8** — 11:45 a.m.-2 p.m. — Confirmation Class
3 p.m. — Cantate Carlisle Concert
- Tues., Dec. 10** — 9:30-11 a.m. — LWR Quilting Group
- Wed., Dec. 11** — 8:30 a.m.—FL Volunteers at Project SHARE Distribution
6:15 p.m. — Soup Supper — *Martin Luther Room*
7 p.m. — Advent Mid-week Service
- Fri., Dec. 13** — 7 p.m. — Carlisle Homeschool Children & Youth Choirs Concert
- Sat., Dec. 14** — 10 a.m.-12 p.m. — Lessons & Carols Choir Rehearsal
3-4 p.m. — Tai Chi — *Festal Hall*
- Sun., Dec. 15** — 4 p.m. — Lessons & Carols
5:15 p.m. — Supper followed by the 'Round-the-Tree Carol Sing
- Tues., Dec. 17** — 6:30 p.m. — Congregation Council
- Wed., Dec. 18** — 6:15 p.m. — Soup Supper — *Martin Luther Room*
7 p.m. — Advent Mid-week Service
- Sat., Dec. 21** — 3-4 p.m. — Tai Chi — *Festal Hall*
- Sun., Dec. 22** — 3 p.m. — Dawn Bennett Concert — *Benefit for Safe Harbour*
- Tues., Dec. 24** — 4p.m., 7 p.m. & 10 p.m. — Christmas Eve Services
- Wed.-Thurs., Dec. 25 & 26** — *Office Closed*
- Tues., Dec. 31** — New Year's Eve — *Office Closes at Noon*

**Staff meetings are held every
Tuesday at 1:30 p.m.**



- ♫ **Handbell Choir – Thursdays, 6 – 6:45 p.m.**
♫ **Chancel Choir – Thursdays, 7 – 8:30 p.m.**

From Our Archives



SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO TOWN. And his house was waiting for him at First Lutheran. This Christmas scene was most probably located in the basement of the old pre 1901 First Lutheran Church on North Bedford Street, now the site of Bedford Street Antiques.



HOLIDAY DINNER BAGS

Monetary donations in any amount are still being accepted for holiday dinner bags for Project SHARE recipients; \$40.00 will provide a complete holiday meal for a family. Checks should be made payable to First Lutheran Church and noted for "Holiday Dinner Bags."

Let's help make the holidays brighter for those less fortunate! Thanks for your support.

Thank you!

A huge and heartfelt thank you to all the people who lovingly gave of their time and talent to make our Celebration Sunday reception very special! Great food, good fellowship and a wonderful new Atrium!

Many thanks,
Lee Leidigh

December Worship Assistants

	December 1	December 8	December 15	December 22	December 29
8 a.m. service					
Assisting Ministers	Richard Wood	Chuck Martin	Sandy Kohler	Rich Wood	Terri Myers
Bread Bakers	Robin Orner	Kathy Brunie	Sarah Niebler	Taylor Miller	Robin Orner
Communion Setup/Cleanup	Terri Myers	Monica Frederick	Lisa Newton	Terri Myers	Monica Frederick
Greeter/Usher	Roger Williams	Mike Luther	Sam Simmons	Gary Newton	Mike Luther
Lectors	Chuck Martin	Terri Myers	Joan Inners	Sandy Jumper	Rich Wood
10 a.m. — Weekly Fellowship Host					
	Robin Orner	Patty Gillingham	Hope Miller	Ginny Ehr Elizabeth Yocum	NO FAITH FORMATION CLASSES
10:30 a.m. service					
Acolytes	Madison Engle	Colton Gillingham	EmmaRose Harty	Michael Raphael	Madison Engle
Assisting Ministers	Roger Williams	Sarah Niebler	Caryn Carr	Sean Nedimyer	Sam Orner
Bread Bakers	Robin Orner	Kathy Brunie	Sarah Niebler	Taylor Miller	Robin Orner
Communion Assistants	Sandy Kohler Don Osborne	Kathy Hall Sandy Jumper	Karen Hollen Hope Miller	Kathy Hall Don Osborne	Sandy Kohler Taylor Miller
Communion Setup/Cleanup	Kathy Brunie Elaine Hock	Taylor & Hope Miller	Norma Greider Yvonne Karper	Elaine Hock Debbie Reitzel	Cindy Allgyer Robin Orner
Flower Distribution	Babette Hoch	Cindy Allgyer	Terri Myers	Bill & Mary Ann Schirmer	Ann Roeder
Greeters	Taylor & Hope Miller	Cindy Allgyer Alecia Staley	Sam & Robin Orner	Don Grell Nancy Ingram	Karen Longenecker Sean Nedimyer
Lectors	Kathleen Hall	Roger Williams	Ann Roeder	Ashley Zink	Hope Miller
Nursery Duty	Kathleen Hall Sarah Niebler	Jeri Fitzsimons Robin Orner	Nancy Ingram Taylor Miller	Hope Miller Alecia Staley	Kathy Hall Cindy Markle
Head Usher	David Stum				
Ushers	Jessica King Steven King Pria King	Kathy Brunie Steve Hogg Ethel Simmons	Bob Baker Michelle Fisher Ian Galbraith	Bill Burkholder Blanche Drumheiser Matt Drumheiser Luke Erickson	Colton Gillingham Gerald Gillingham Don Grell

Additional worship assistants on next page.

SPECIAL DECEMBER SERVICES

	Lessons & Carols
	Dec. 15 — 4 p.m.
Acolytes	Ainslee Martin TBD (2)
Lectors	TBD
Ushers	Taylor Miller David Stum (head)

	Christmas Eve		
	Dec. 24 4 p.m.	Dec. 24 7 p.m.	Dec. 24 10 p.m.
Acolytes	N/A	TBD	Madison Engle Ben Galbraith Ian Galbraith
Assisting Ministers	Hope Miller	TBD	Janelle Hoch
Communion Assistants	Taylor Miller	TBD	Caryn Carr Karen Hollen
Communion Setup/Cleanup (Intinction)	Pastor Leber	Pastor Leber Robin Orner	Pastor Leber Robin Orner
Lectors	Rich Wood	TBD	Sarah Niebler
Ushers	Bob Baker Gary Newton	TBD	Jered Hock Steve Hogg Alecia Staley

PLEASE NOTE:

All contributions must be received in the church office by **12 noon on Tuesday, December 31, 2019**, in order for them to be reflected on your 2019 contribution statement. All contributions received after this date will be posted in 2020.

Offering envelopes for 2020 are available in the narthex. Please make sure you pick up your box of envelopes for the new year. If you have any questions, please contact Robin in the church office (717-249-3310).

O come, O come, Emmanuel!

The staff of First Lutheran wishes you and yours a blessed Advent, a merry Christmas and joy in the new year!

*Robin, John, David, Hope,
Pastor Lorenz and Pastor Leber*



Please note that the church office will be closed on Wednesday, Dec. 25 and Thursday, Dec. 26, for the Christmas holiday.



Taylor, Brynlee..... 12/1
 Van Orden, Philip..... 12/1
 Butts, April..... 12/2
 Stone, Jeremy..... 12/2
 Weaver, Zachary..... 12/2
 Franklin, Kayla 12/3
 Jones, David 12/4
 Anderson, Timothy..... 12/5
 Fulton, Martha..... 12/5
 Gitt Jr., Charles 12/6
 Snyder, Michelle 12/6
 Franklin, Chelsea 12/7
 Stuart, Harrison..... 12/12
 Raphael, Michael 12/14
 Osborne, Donald..... 12/15
 Guadalupe, Jamie..... 12/17
 Ward, Juliet..... 12/17
 Haggerty, Tammara 12/21
 Raphael, Sarah 12/22
 Schirmer, Mary Ann 12/22
 Foote, Gertrude..... 12/23
 Cozort, Kace 12/24
 Anderson, Trent 12/25
 Yocum, Elizabeth 12/25
 Orenyo, Phyllis..... 12/27
 Hogg, Stephen 12/28
 Stuart, Douglas 12/28
 Jacobs, Janet..... 12/31

Berry, Tyler..... 12/4 Davidson, Susan..... 12/12
 Peffer, Nathan 12/7 Taylor, Mitchell..... 12/13
 Ehr, Virginia..... 12/8 Kline, Harry 12/14
 Guadalupe, Jeremy..... 12/8 Snyder, Michelle 12/16
 Guadalupe, Mariella 12/8 Fitzsimons, Colleen 12/20
 Guadalupe, Patty..... 12/8 Houtz, Matthew..... 12/21
 Stum, Lisa 12/8 Schirmer, Mary Ann 12/23
 Baish, Richard 12/9 Martin, Madison 12/25
 Fickel, William 12/11 Henderson, Ryan..... 12/30
 Bartko, John 12/12



Richard & Shirley Chamberlain (66 years)..... 12/12
 Lawrence & Marjorie Shenk (60 years)..... 12/21
 Richard & Marsha Lorenz (50 years) 12/27

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

DEATH

Rex B. Asten

birth — February 25, 1933
 death — November 13, 2019

✠ *Rest eternal grant him, O Lord,
 and let light perpetual shine upon him.*

FIRST COMMUNION

Caroline Alexis Zink

November 10, 2019

Sunday	Attendance	Offering
Oct. 6	114	\$4,737.75
Oct. 13	147	\$3,879.39
Oct. 20	115	\$5,483.04
Oct. 27	151	\$3,445.00

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Carlisle, PA 17013
717-249-3310

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Carlisle, PA 17013

The Reverend Lisa M. Leber — pastor@firstlutherancarlisle.org - (717) 462-6138
The Reverend Richard Lorenz — (717) 249-3310
David Erickson — dve@pa.net - (717) 263-4267
Hope Miller — busadmin@firstlutherancarlisle.org - (717) 701-8318
Robin Orner — secretary@firstlutherancarlisle.org - (717) 249-3310
John Shugart, Jr. — (717) 249-3310
Tali Martin — president@firstlutherancarlisle.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Church Office Hours:

Monday — Friday

8:30 a.m. — 4:30 p.m.

Closed for lunch — 12:15-12:45 p.m.

label

Sunday Worship:

8 & 10:30 a.m. – Holy Communion

9:15 a.m. – Faith Formation Classes



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

Check out our website!

www.firstlutherancarlisle.org



Pastor Leber's sermons are posted on our website — so if you miss a Sunday or would like to share a sermon with a friend, visit www.firstlutherancarlisle.org and click on the "Worship" tab and then "Sermons."

Newsletter articles are due by the 15th of each month.