



# FIRST EDITION - DECEMBER 2020

*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 Mid-week Worship (December 9, 16, 23)

**On Wednesdays in Advent**, Pastor Leber offers a brief (approximately 10-minute) Zoom midweek prayer service at 7 p.m.

Please plan to join the Zoom at 6:55 p.m. To participate by audio/video, go to: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87605769885> or <https://zoom.us/> and enter meeting ID 876 0576 9885.

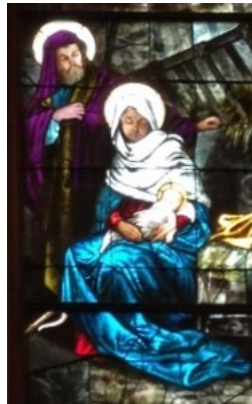
To participate by telephone only (not toll-free): dial (301) 715-8592 OR (312) 626-6799 and enter meeting ID 876 0576 9885.

The link/phone numbers/meeting ID will remain the same each week.

The bulletin can be found at <https://firstlutherancarlisle.org/resources-for-worship-and-faith-formation-at-home/>. If you would like a copy mailed to you, please let the office know! (And if you are technology-challenged and need some help with Zooming, just contact Pastor Leber!)

## CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

We are still hoping/planning to hold in person worship on Christmas Eve, Thursday, December 24. Services will be kept to under an hour and will be socially distanced (of course!) **All services will include holy communion (wafers only) and candlelighting.**



Our tentative schedule:

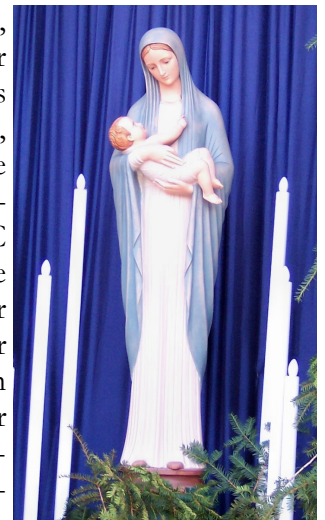
**3 p.m.** Spoken liturgy. No congregational singing inside - soloist/small ensemble to provide special music. If the weather cooperates, at the end of worship we will move outside to the High Street Plaza to light candles and sing *Silent Night*. (If the weather does not cooperate, a soloist will sing while we light candles inside.)

**5 p.m., 7 p.m. and 9 p.m.** Spoken liturgy. The congregation will sing three carols/hymns, including *Silent Night* during candlelighting. Soloist/small ensemble to provide additional music.

*As we have learned over the past eight months,  
all plans are subject to change!*

## ADVENT WALKING TOUR 2020 Video Edition

Like many things this year, the Advent Walking Tour of Carlisle churches has gone online! Five churches, First Lutheran, Carlisle United Methodist, St. Matthew's UCC, First UCC and St. Paul Lutheran, are participating this year. For the video, Pastor Leber offered a short reflection on Mary, Mother of Our Lord, and our annual display at our High Street entrance.



Join the online watch party next Sunday, December 13, at 1 p.m. at <https://cumberlandvalleytv.com/>. The video will remain posted there and on the First United Church of Christ - Carlisle Facebook page throughout the Advent and Christmas seasons.

## Building to Serve All God's Children Capital Campaign Update (as of November 30)



Total campaign commitments:	\$604,415
Total commitments paid to date:	\$546,290
Unpledged/"as able" gifts given to date:	\$73,306
<u>Total given to date:</u>	<u>\$619,596</u>

*Thank you for your continuing generosity and support!*

### **PLEASE NOTE:**

All contributions must be received in the church office by **12 noon on Thursday, December 31, 2020**, in order for them to be reflected on your 2020 contribution statement. All contributions received after this date will be posted in 2021.

Offering envelopes for 2021 are available in the church office. 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).

### **CHRISTMAS I WORSHIP**

Due to the number of family gatherings that will likely take place over Christmas, the Worship & Music Committee and staff have decided that **we will not hold in person worship the First Sunday of Christmas, December 27**. Resources for at home worship will be posted on our website at <https://firstlutherancarlisle.org/resources-for-worship-and-faith-formation-at-home/>

## **WREATH SPONSORSHIPS & WORLD HUNGER**



This year six wreaths and a limited number of poinsettias are decorating the chancel area. The poinsettias will be purchased by the church.

If you wish to sponsor one of the wreaths for \$25.00 or give to World Hunger in memory of, in honor of, or in thanksgiving for, a loved one, contact Robin in the church office at 717-249-3310 or at [secretary@firstlutherancarlisle.org](mailto:secretary@firstlutherancarlisle.org). Donations must be received by Wednesday, December 16, in order to have your acknowledgement printed in the Christmas Eve bulletin.



## From our Sister Parish in El Salvador, Divine Redeemer

Excerpts from Pastor Fernandez' recent letter (*translated by Google Translate, so forgive the grammar!*)

Dear brothers and sisters. Peace and good be with you.

First of all, I want to express our gratitude to God and to all the people of First Lutheran Church, who have helped us with their financial support. Thanks to their help, we can contribute as a Church, favoring in informal formation people with limited economic resources, both men and women and young people, in the bakery area and also vocational training for women.



These are difficult times because of the COVID-19 pandemic, both in our country and in the world. Our country was already vulnerable and this has exacerbated poverty and hunger.



Through the project, in the face of COVID-19, we have supported the church, in the work of raising awareness of personal self-care, to avoid contagion, in families and the community, the importance of the use of the mask, hygiene protocols, so masks have also been given to people from vulnerable groups; All this effort has had good results, because before it had neglected the people and it was a risk for the families.

The bakery also reached out to the homes of needy families to deliver bread donations, house by house and we also continued with the trainings with women and bakery.

May God pour out many blessings each and every one and multiply enormously and in great proportions, all the help and support that you give us as a Sister Church.



## SUMMARY OF ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING

First Lutheran held its 2020 annual meeting on Sunday, November 15, 2020, at 11:30 a.m. in the sanctuary. There were approximately 48 voting members in attendance. Listed below are the actions taken during the meeting.

**The minutes of the 2019 annual congregation meeting were reviewed and approved as submitted.**

**The congregation elected five members to council.** David Fitzsimons, Janelle Hoch, Stephanie Koplitz-Harty, Donald Osborne and Alecia Staley were elected to three-year terms. **The congregation also elected** Kathy Brunie, Caryn Carr and Taylor Miller to serve on the 2021 Nominating Committee.

**The Treasurer's Report was reviewed and accepted.**

**The congregation received and approved First Lutheran's 2021 proposed Mission Spending Plan of \$614,700.00.**

Prior to approving the proposed Capital Projects Budget, **a proposed amendment to the 2021 Capital Projects Budget was received from congregation council to amend the 2021 Capital Projects Budget to allocate the \$10,000.00 proposed for Education Wing Improvements to investigate recurring water penetration in the lower level (rooms 12 and 13). The amendment was approved by the congregation.**

**The congregation received and approved the amended, proposed Capital Projects Budget of \$21,000.00 in income and \$20,000.00 in expenses.**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:55 a.m.

Thank you First Lutheran friends for the prayers, cards and outpouring of kindness during my two colon surgeries and recovery. My heart is full, and I am feeling better every day. Seven years ago when we came to our first Sunday service at First Lutheran to "check it out" it has felt like home to us. Everyone was so welcoming! Now with major surgery behind me, I want to express my deepest gratitude to our First Lutheran family for your thoughts, prayers and well wishes.

Love and peace,  
*Julie Stone*



Thank you for the cards and gift in honor of my 25<sup>th</sup> ordination anniversary on October 13. I appreciated your congratulations and good wishes!

In Christ,  
*Pastor Leber*

Please pass on my thanks [for the college student care package]. The snacks are appreciated...and my neighbors and I are going to have a game night with popcorn and Bananagrams!

*Elise Erickson*

## THANK YOU AND GODSPEED, JOHN!



Our long-time sexton, John Shughart, has announced his resignation, effective December 31. John has been a member of the First Lutheran staff since July 1997, over 23 years! We are so grateful for his two decades+ of service, the pride he has taken in caring for our buildings and grounds, and his willingness to help out wherever and whenever someone asked!

John is not big on being the center of attention anyway, but especially with the pandemic and the busy holiday season, it is just not feasible for us to plan any kind of in person farewell event.

You are invited to send cards and thank you gifts directly to John at his home, 132 E. High Street, or to him at the church (please make sure they are clearly labelled). John and his family will be

moving from 132 E. High Street on or before March 31 of next year.

## Good News from Lutheran World Relief!

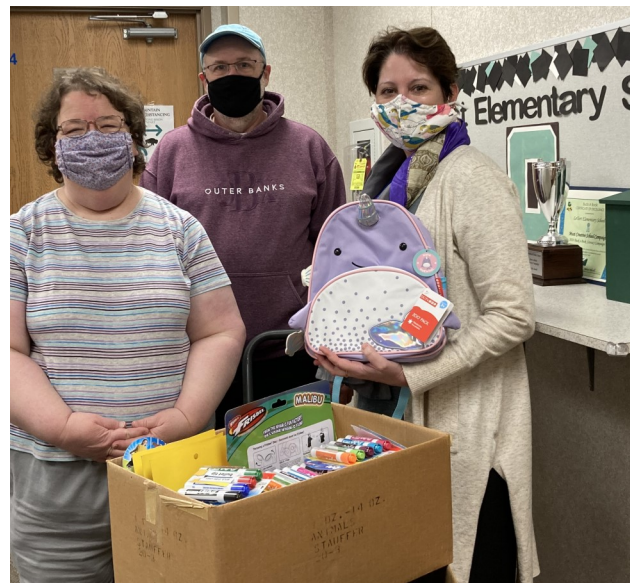
Following the August 4 explosion in the port of Beirut we heard of the likely loss of three containers containing thousands of LWR quilts and school, personal care and baby kits.

In October we received this word from LWR: “that upon closer inspection and despite the magnitude of the blast, the seal of the containers containing the quilts and kits had not been broken. The containers had been placed inside a concrete storage building and was surrounded by other shipping containers, protecting the containers enough to even prevent chemical contamination.” What wonderful news!!

*Thanks to those who donated to the Lutheran World Relief Quilt & Kit Shipping Fund during the month of October. We sent \$1,025 to LWR and will have a “First Lutheran brick” placed in Good Samaritan Plaza in Baltimore.*

## A different kind of Halloween!

Thanks to all who donated items for LeTort Elementary School!



*Above right: Sam and Robin Orner present to Ann Gerras, counselor, the 81 items collected!*



## Cookies needed for the Truck Stop Ministry!

The Social Ministry & Global Outreach Committee invites you to participate in our annual Christmas cookie outreach project. Due to the pandemic, this year we will not be able to deliver cookies to our home-bound members or the Cumberland County Prison. However, we can still donate cookies to the Carlisle Truck Stop Ministry for distribution to truckers passing through our town far from family and friends, giving them a little taste of home.

Because of COVID-19 concerns, the Truck Stop Ministry asks the following:

- \* Please wear masks and gloves while preparing and packaging cookies
- \* 6-8 cookies should be placed into a small plastic zip lock bag and then into a paper lunch bag, which should be stapled shut. You are invited to decorate the lunch bag. (Christmas card fronts stapled to the bag are great!)

**Please drop off your bags of cookies to the church office by Sunday, December 20.**

*Thank you!*

## Presentation of Bibles

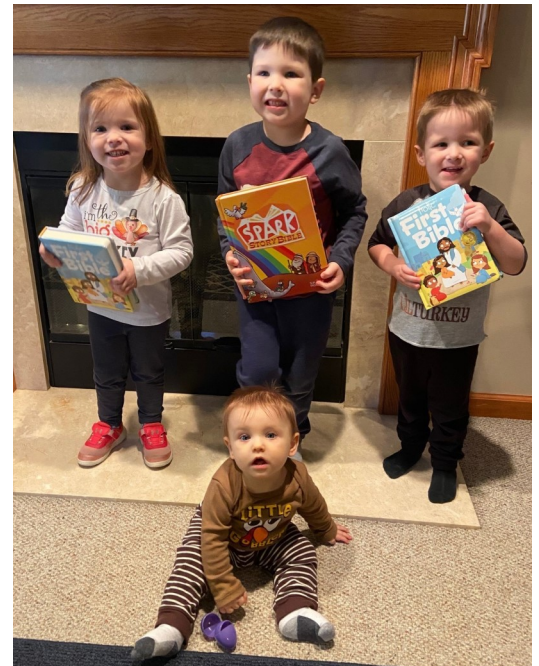
This fall, a number of our children received bibles from the Faith Formation Committee. We were not able to present them all during Reformation Sunday worship, so Pastor Leber made some home deliveries!



*Left:* Lyla Stone

*Below:* Laurel Trefren

*Right:* Eloise, Benjamin, Phineas and Milo Slusser (thanks to grandmother and Faith Formation chair, Hope Miller, for handling that delivery!)



# DECEMBER Birthdays



- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1-Dec ..... Brynlee Taylor<br>Philip Van Orden            | 17-Dec ..... Jamie Guadalupe<br>Julie Ward                                   |
| 2-Dec ..... April Butts<br>Jeremy Stone<br>Zachary Weaver | 20-Dec ..... Brent Simmons<br>21-Dec ..... Tammara Haggerty<br>Kara Sheaffer |
| 3-Dec ..... Kimberly Brenneman<br>Kayla Franklin          | 22-Dec ..... Sarah Raphael<br>23-Dec ..... Gertie Foote<br>Jonathan Mentzer  |
| 4-Dec ..... Dave Jones                                    | 24-Dec ..... Kace Cozort   |
| 5-Dec ..... Tim Anderson<br>Martha Fulton                 | 25-Dec ..... Trent Anderson<br>Elizabeth Yocum                               |
| 6-Dec ..... Charley Gitt<br>Michelle Snyder               | 27-Dec ..... Phyllis Orenyo  |
| 7-Dec ..... Chelsea Franklin                              | 28-Dec ..... Steve Hogg<br>Douglas Stuart                                    |
| 12-Dec ..... Harrison Stuart                              | 30-Dec ..... Ethan Colón   |
| 14-Dec ..... Michael Raphael                              | 31-Dec ..... Janet Jacobs  |
| 15-Dec ..... Don Osborne                                  |  |
| 16-Dec ..... Martina Bloser                               |  |

- |   |
|---|
| 4-Dec ..... Tyler Berry   |
| 7-Dec ..... Nathan Pepper   |
| 8-Dec ..... Ginny Ehr<br>Jeremy Guadalupe<br>Mariella Guadalupe<br>Patty Guadalupe<br>Lisa Stum |
| 9-Dec ..... Richard Baish   |
| 11-Dec ..... William Fickel   |
| 12-Dec ..... John Bartko<br>Susie Davidson  |
| 13-Dec ..... Mitch Taylor   |
| 14-Dec ..... Harry Kline  |
| 16-Dec ..... Michelle Snyder  |
| 20-Dec ..... Colleen Fitzsimons   |
| 21-Dec ..... Matt Houtz   |
| 25-Dec ..... Madison Martin   |
| 30-Dec ..... Ryan Henderson   |

CELEBRATING A



- |  |       |
|--|-------|
| Richard & Shirley Chamberlain (67 years) ..... | 12/12 |
| Larry & Marjorie Shenk (62 years) .....        | 12/21 |
| Richard & Marsha Lorenz (51 years).....        | 12/27 |

**Please note that the church office will be closed on Friday, Dec. 25, for Christmas and will close at noon on Thursday, Dec. 31, for New Year's Eve.**

## 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, Michelle, Hope, Pastor Lorenz and Pastor Leber*



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21 South Bedford Street  
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717-249-3310

www.firstlutherancarlisle.org

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**Church Office Hours:**

Monday — Thursday  
8:30 a.m. — 12:15 p.m. & 12:45 — 4:30 p.m.

Friday  
8:30 a.m. — 12:15 p.m.

Pastor Leber is available by cell throughout the week at (717)215-6055.

label

**Sunday Worship:**

8 & 10:30 a.m. – Holy Communion



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

**Resources for weekly at home worship (including recordings of the sermon and organ hymn accompaniments, a bulletin, children's bulletin and *Taking Faith Home*) can be found at:**

<https://firstlutherancarlisle.org/resources-for-worship-and-faith-formation-at-home/>

**DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES FOR THE  
JANUARY NEWSLETTER IS DECEMBER 20!**