



FIRST EDITION - DECEMBER 2021

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 Music and Prayer (December 1, 8, 15, 22)

Join us **each Wednesday in Advent at 12 noon** for a service consisting of a brief organ recital by our cantor, David Erickson, followed by worship. Each week's music and worship (approximately 30 minutes in total length) will feature a different (and famous!) Advent hymn.

December 1: *Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying*

December 8: *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*

December 15: *Comfort, Comfort Now My People*

December 22: *Savior of the Nations, Come*



Lessons & Carols

Sunday, December 19 at 4 p.m.

Our beloved service of music and readings returns this year! The service will be a bit briefer than usual, as we continue to adapt worship in this time of pandemic. Afterwards, you are invited to join us in the Atrium for Christmas cookies and beverages.



CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

Friday, December 24

Given the current rate of community transmission of COVID-19, we anticipate that social distancing will be required at indoor Christmas Eve worship.

Please note this is a different schedule than that of previous years!

**4 p.m. - communion and candlelighting
(indoor - masks required)**

**6 p.m. - outdoor communion and candlelighting, followed by hot chocolate!
(masks optional)**

(If inclement weather is predicted for the 24th, this service will be held on December 23.)

**9 p.m. - communion and candlelighting
(indoor - masks required)**

Building to Serve All God's Children

Capital Campaign Update (as of November 15)



Total campaign commitments:	\$601,915
Total commitments paid to date:	\$619,472
Unpledged/"as able" gifts given to date:	\$151,770
<u>Total given to date:</u>	<u>\$771,242</u>

Thank you for your continuing generosity and support!

Committee Meetings & Events

December 2021

- Wed., Dec. 1 — 12 noon — Advent Music and Prayer
- Sat., Dec. 4 — 8 p.m. — Cantate Carlisle Concert
- Sun., Dec. 5 — 3 p.m. — Cantate Carlisle Concert
4-6 p.m. — New Member Orientation
- Wed., Dec. 8 — 12 noon — Advent Music and Prayer
- Tues., Dec. 14 — 9:30-11 a.m. — LWR Quilting Group
- Wed., Dec. 15 — 12 noon — Advent Music and Prayer
- Sun., Dec. 19 — 4 p.m. — Lessons & Carols
- Tues., Dec. 21 — 5 p.m. Homeless Remembrance Blanket Project
6:30 p.m. — Congregation Council
- Wed., Dec. 22 — 12 noon — Advent Music and Prayer
- Fri., Dec. 24 — 4 p.m., 6 p.m., 9 p.m. — Christmas Eve Services
- Mon.-Tues, Dec. 27 & 28 — Building & Office Closed
- Fri., Dec. 31 — Building and Office Closed

Building and Church Office Hours: December 27-31

Due to holiday closings and staff vacations, building and church office hours will be as follows:

**Monday & Tuesday, Dec. 27 & 28 —
building & office closed**

**Wednesday and Thursday, Dec. 29 & 30 —
building and office open 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
(Pastor Leber here)**

Friday, Dec. 31 — building & office closed

PLEASE NOTE:

Due to our modified holiday hours (*see above*), all contributions must be received in the church office by **3 p.m. on THURSDAY, December 30**, in order for them to be reflected on your 2021 contribution statement. All contributions received after this date will be posted in 2022.

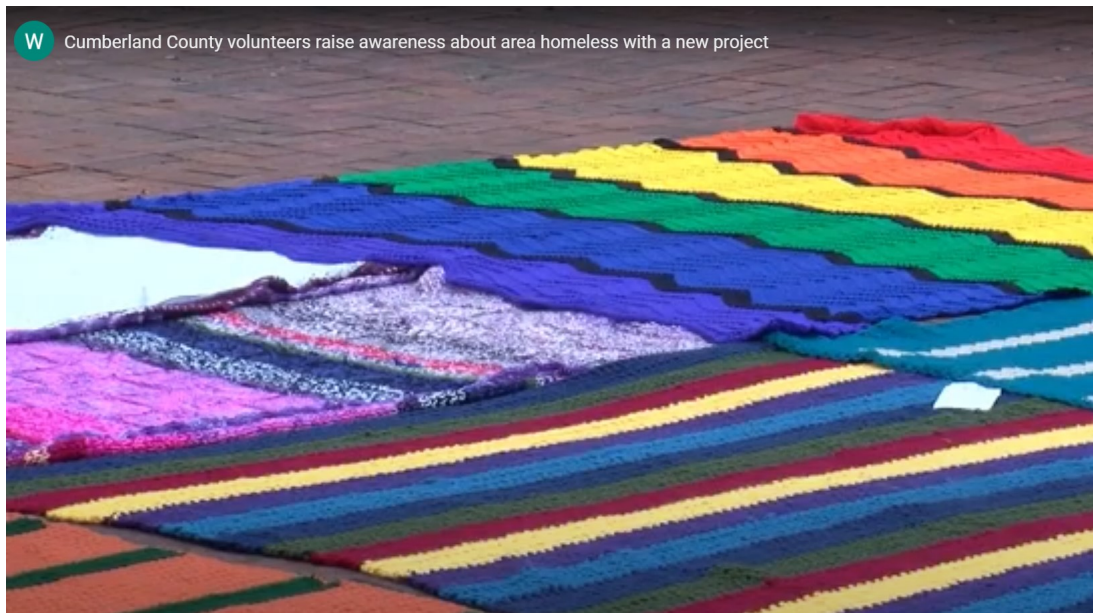
2022 offering envelopes are available in the church office. Please make sure you pick up your box. If you have any questions, contact Robin in the church office (717-249-3310).

Homeless Remembrance Blanket Project

On **Tuesday, December 21**, the longest night of the year, First Lutheran will be the host site for a special community event to raise awareness about homelessness.

Organized by the Lower Susquehanna Synod Homelessness & Affordable Housing Task Force and other local advocates, volunteers, and craftspeople, the Homeless Remembrance Blanket Project will cover our High Street Plaza with hundreds of blankets, beginning at 5 p.m.

While plans are still being finalized, the event is also anticipated to include a blessing of the blankets, soup and bread give-away, and ingathering of hats, gloves, and hygiene projects. Representatives from organizations serving those experiencing homelessness will also be on site. More information will be shared via bulletins and on our website!



Right: screenshot from a recent abc27 news story about the upcoming event



From our Sister Parish, Divine Redeemer (El Divino Redentor) Lutheran Church, San Miguel, El Salvador

Pastor Belinda Fernandez e-mailed several pictures recently, including this one of a new sister in Christ!

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.



Calling all Bakers — Cookies Needed!



We are seeking cookie donations for the fellowship event being held after our Lessons & Carols Service on Sunday, December 19, AND for the Carlisle Truck Stop Ministry.

Bakers may bake cookies for either or both!

Labelled donations should be placed in the Festal Hall kitchen (lower level) by Sunday morning, December 19. (You may also drop them off in the church office during regular office hours the preceding week.)

- * Cookies for the Lessons & Carols fellowship may be placed on trays or in plastic containers.
- * Cookies for the Truck Stop Ministry must be packaged as follows (per the Truck Stop Ministry!):
Place 6-8 cookies into a small plastic zip lock bag and place the plastic bag into a paper lunch bag, which should then be stapled shut. You are invited to decorate the lunch bag. (Christmas card fronts stapled to the bag are great!)

The Social Ministry and Global Outreach Committee will be delivering the cookies to the Truck Stop Ministry on December 21.

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 **Community C.A.R.E.S.** and for **Operation Warm Hearts**, a local organization that partners with service agencies in our community to help those in need. (A list of suggested 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!*



The Lutheran Camping Corporation
of Central Pennsylvania
Kirchenwald, Nawakwa, & The Wittel Farm

Advent Day Apart
Saturday, December 4, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
The Wittel Farm, Elizabethtown

Advent is the season of preparation, but its location is the wilderness, not the shopping center.

Led by Pastor Matt Lenahan, participants will explore the significance of the wilderness in the biblical narrative and its meaning for their own spiritual journeys.

The wilderness is both adventure and danger, beauty and vulnerability. And the wilderness journey can be hard and despairing. But in this season, it brings hope!

The Advent Day Apart will help you discover this hope in the wilderness.

Cost is \$15 and includes lunch.

Register or learn more about the event at
www.lutherancamping.org.

SUMMARY OF ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING

First Lutheran held its 2021 annual meeting on Sunday, November 14, 2021, at 11:35 p.m. There were approximately 49 voting members in attendance. Listed below are the actions taken during the meeting.

The minutes of the 2020 annual congregation meeting were reviewed and approved as presented.

The congregation elected five members to council. Connie Alexander, Kathleen Hall, Ron Jumper, Karen Longenecker and Lester Reeder were elected to three-year terms. **The congregation also elected** Donald Grell, Ethel "Pepsi" Simmons and Ashley Zink to serve on the 2022 Nominating Committee.

The Treasurer's Report was reviewed and approved.

The congregation received and approved First Lutheran's 2022 proposed Mission Spending Plan of \$561,150 and the proposed Capital Projects Budget of \$30,000.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 12:03 p.m.

POINSETTIA ORDERS WREATH SPONSORSHIPS & WORLD HUNGER

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

Order forms are available in the High Street narthex, on the kiosk in the upper level of the Atrium and in the church office or you may contact Robin in the church office at 717-249-3310 or secretary@firstlutherancarlisle.org.



Happy Thanksgiving!

And thanks to Lee Leidigh for creating this beautiful harvest display for worship!



First Lutheran hosts Head Start and wishes to share the following opportunity:

Do you or someone you know want to make a difference in the lives of young children and their families? Carlisle Head Start has job openings for full-time associate teachers, home visitors, and substitutes!

Join our team of dedicated professionals, and work here on site at First Lutheran Church in Carlisle. Our Head Start classrooms are fun places for children *and staff* to learn, play, and grow!

Benefits include:

- Professional development opportunities
- Tuition assistance
- Medical, dental benefits
- 401 K



Apply online at <https://www.khs.org/careers/> or call (717) 258-5559.

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



Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers. They have been here in the house for a week and are still beautiful. They look like a garden bouquet, which makes them so special. They are placed in my home where I pass by numerous times all day.



Charlotte Ulrich

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!

David, Hope, Robin, Pastor Leber and Pastor Lorenz





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|--|--|--|
| 1-Dec..... Brynlee Taylor
Philip Van Orden | 17-Dec.... Jamie Guadalupe
Julie Ward | 4-Dec..... Tyler Berry |
| 2-Dec..... April Butts
Jeremy Stone
Zachary Weaver | 20-Dec.... Brent Simmons | 7-Dec..... Nathan Peffer |
| 3-Dec..... Kimberly Brenneman
Kayla Franklin | 21-Dec.... Tammara Haggerty
Kara Sheaffer | 8-Dec..... Ginny Ehr
Jeremy Guadalupe
Patty Guadalupe
Lisa Stum
Mariella Guadalupe |
| 4-Dec..... Dave Jones | 22-Dec.... Sarah Raphael | 9-Dec..... Richard Baish |
| 5-Dec..... Tim Anderson
Martha Fulton | 23-Dec.... Gertie Foote
Jonathan Mentzer | 11-Dec.... William Fickel |
| 6-Dec..... Charles Gitt
Michelle Snyder | 24-Dec.... Kace Cozort | 12-Dec.... John Bartko
Susie Davidson |
| 7-Dec..... Chelsea Franklin | 25-Dec.... Elizabeth Yocum
Trent Anderson | 13-Dec.... Mitch Taylor |
| 12-Dec.... Harrison Stuart | 27-Dec.... Phyllis Orenyo | 14-Dec.... Harry Kline |
| 14-Dec.... Michael Raphael
Samantha Stuby | 28-Dec.... Steve Hogg
Douglas Stuart | 16-Dec.... Michelle Snyder |
| 15-Dec.... Don Osborne | 30-Dec.... Ethan Colón | 20-Dec.... Colleen Fitzsimons |
| 16-Dec.... Martina Bloser | 31-Dec.... Janet Jacobs
Reed Trefren | 21-Dec.... Matt Houtz |
| | | 25-Dec.... Madison Martin |
| | | 30-Dec.... Ryan Henderson |

A Note from the Rev. Marty Jo Irvin-Stellabotte...

Dear friends at First Lutheran,

It was so wonderful visiting with you and sharing a message of Christ's love on the last Sunday before my call vote! I am grateful for your support during my internship and for the gift of an oil stock that you presented to me. This will be so useful in my future ministry, and I appreciate your generosity and thoughtfulness.

In this season of sharing thanks, I am thankful to have had Pastor Leber serve as my supervisor over the past year and for all that I've learned from her in preparation for ordained ministry, and I'm thankful to you for your willingness to support an intern.

May God continue to bless the ministries at First Lutheran, and may you have a happy and healthy Advent and Christmas season.



(Former Vicar) MJ Irvin-Stellabotte

CELEBRATING A



- Richard & Shirley Chamberlain (68 years)... 12/12
- Larry & Marjorie Shenk (63years) 12/21
- Chuck & May Seibert (50 years) 12/26
- Richard & Marsha Lorenz (52 years) 12/27



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www.firstlutherancarlisle.org

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Carlisle, PA 17013

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Church Office Hours:

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

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

Sunday Worship:

8 & 10:30 a.m. – Holy Communion



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.



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.