



FIRST EDITION - FALL 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

AN INVITATION TO JOIN US FOR IMPORTANT WORK

**The Annual Congregation Meeting has been scheduled for
Sunday, November 14, in the nave
following the 10:30 a.m. service.**

The agenda will include reports from staff, officers and committees; election of members to Congregation Council (five to be elected to serve three-year terms: Connie Alexander, Kathy Hall, Ron Jumper, Karen Longenecker, Lester Reeder); election of members to the 2022 Nominating Committee (three to be elected to serve one-year terms: Don Grell, Pepsi Simmons, Ashley Zink); and adoption of the Mission Spending Plan and Capital Budget for 2022.

The 2021 Annual Report, including the 2022 proposed budgets, and bios of council nominees will be available, beginning October 29, at the church, on our website (<https://firstlutherancarlisle.org/members/>), or by request via U.S. mail.

Members have the privilege of voice and vote at meetings if they are confirmed and have communed and made a contribution of record to the congregation during the current or preceding calendar year.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Friday Church Office Hours: Now that Head Start has returned to in person programming and there is more activity in the building throughout the week, the Personnel Committee has recommended that the church office resume being staffed and open on Fridays until 4:30 p.m., with a break for lunch from 12:15-12:45 p.m. This new (old!) schedule began on October 15.

Building to Serve All God's Children

Capital Campaign Update (as of October 22)



Total campaign commitments:	\$601,915
Total commitments paid to date:	\$618,227
Unpledged/"as able" gifts given to date:	\$151,770
<u>Total given to date:</u>	<u>\$769,997</u>

Thank you for your continuing generosity and support!

Committee Meetings & Events

October & November 2021

- Sun., Oct. 24 — 3:30 p.m. — Serve at My Brother's Table
Soup Kitchen
- Tues., Oct. 26 — 6 p.m. — Evangelism Committee
- Wed., Oct. 27 — 7 p.m. — Faith Formation Committee
- Sat., Oct. 30 — 9 a.m. — Cleaning Work Day — Nave
- Tues., Nov. 2 — 7 p.m. — Worship & Music Committee
- Sat., Nov. 6 — 9 a.m.-2 p.m. — Blood Drive
- Sun., Nov. 14 — 11:30 a.m. — Annual Congregational
Meeting
- Tues., Nov. 16 — 6:30 p.m. — Congregation Council
- Wed., Nov. 17 — 7 p.m. — Social Ministry & Global
Outreach Committee
- Sun., Nov. 21 — 4 p.m. — Dickinson Orchestra Concert
- Thurs.-Fri., Nov. 25 & 26 — Office Closed

RECYCLE YOUR ALUMINUM CANS AND TABS!

First Lutheran continues to collect rinsed (please!) aluminum cans and pull tabs to benefit two local causes, Cumberland-Goodwill EMS (cans) and the Ronald McDonald House in Hershey (pull tabs). Labelled collection containers are in the hallway by the church office.



Thanks for your support!

First Lutheran staffing updates:

Council members, singers and ringers, and folks on the First Lutheran e-mail distribution list have already heard the news that **David Erickson, our part-time cantor**, is resigning effective December 31.

David served as our interim music minister from November 2013-June 2014 and again from August 2016-June 2017. He then accepted the position of part-time cantor in July 2018. By the time we get to December, that will add up to over 4½ years of David leading us in song, directing our singers and ringers, and being a valued colleague to the rest of our staff!



In David's own words: "I genuinely love First Lutheran, its people and the music we make to the Glory of God...However, the demands of my growing business, the new chapters of life our children are entering and my desire to spend more time with Leann compel me to resign...We will remain active in and supportive of the church and of the music program. We intend to remain in choir and I will be happy to help as much as I am able, including substituting or accompanying as the new person might find helpful."

Thank you, David, for sharing your many gifts with us!

At its monthly meeting this past Tuesday, Congregation Council approved an updated job description for the position of part-time cantor. We will begin advertising for the position promptly!

For over twenty years, First Lutheran has employed a full-time **sexton**. Though a staffing consultation in 2009 revealed that the congregation was overstaffed in the area of administration and building support, the sexton position was not adjusted at that time.

The resignation of our long-time sexton last December has resulted in an ongoing discussion about how best to care for our beautiful building and grounds in light of changing circumstances and needs. For instance, our new Atrium door is programmable, meaning we no longer need a staff member to be on site to physically unlock the building at 7 a.m. on weekdays for Head Start. First Lutheran also is no longer providing daily janitorial services to multiple Head Start classrooms and office space, a change precipitated by COVID-19, but which has become permanent.

The Personnel Committee has recommended that the congregation not hire a sexton at this time. Based on this recommendation, the Finance Committee and Congregation Council are proposing the adoption of a mission spending plan for 2022 that includes line items for outsourced lawn care, snow removal and janitorial services. This will result in a significant savings in personnel expenses and will help to balance the size of our staff with the size of our worshipping congregation. This does not preclude budgeting for and hiring part-time sexton(s) in future years.

The Grounds Guys have been mowing our lawn all spring and summer and will provide snow removal for our sidewalks and parking lots. Our transition to a cleaning contractor has been a bit bumpier; a new team will be servicing our building starting this week.

Our remaining full-time staff, Robin Orner and Pastor Leber, have absorbed some of the other sexton duties along the way. For example, Pastor Leber now opens and closes the building on Sunday mornings. And we still have some things to work out about how to welcome and host outside groups, particularly in the evenings.

Thanks for your cooperation as we adjust to a different level of staff support in the building. We have greatly appreciated people's help with setting up tables, moving chairs, and cleaning up the occasional water intrusion in the basement and will continue to welcome volunteer assistance.

CHILI COOK-OFF



Above: Folks enjoy sampling 12 different chili recipes.



Left: Our chili cooks!

Below: The winner of the cook-off, Alecia Staley, pictured with Janelle Hoch, master of ceremonies.

Our first annual Chili Cook-Off was a great success, raising \$745 for Project SHARE!

Attendees enjoyed sampling 12 chili recipes and a variety of cornbread recipes.

Congratulations to Alecia Staley, this year's chili cook-off winner!

Thanks to our chili cookers, cornbread bakers, and tasters! And a special thanks goes out to Janelle Hoch for organizing the event on behalf of the Social Ministry and Global Outreach Committee!



WANTED: volunteer delivery drivers for Meals on Wheels of Carlisle!

- ◆ Meals are delivered once daily, Monday through Friday, and routes take less than one hour
- ◆ Meal pick up is at Forest Park Rehab Center (700 Walnut Bottom Rd) from 10:15—10:30 a.m.
- ◆ Each volunteer delivers once per week



If you can help with a weekly route or are willing to be placed on a substitute list, please contact Stephanie Ollestad at 717-245-0707 or 717-422-2501.

THE SALVATION ARMY ANGEL TREE PROJECT

Each year, the Salvation Army Angel Tree Project provides Christmas gifts to hundreds of children in our community. We will have the opportunity to support this wonderful program again this year.



Angel Tree tags will be available beginning **Sunday, November 7**, on the tree in the upper level of the Atrium. Each tag includes a few wish list items.

Purchase an article of clothing and a toy from the wish list and bring the items to the church in a large black plastic bag (one for each child) with the angel tag placed around the tied bag. **Gifts are due no later than Monday, November 29.** Thank you for your generosity toward our community!

THE NEED FOR BLOOD IS SERIOUS

Fall is typically a time when the blood supply bounces back from summer blood shortages, but this year is different. **The American Red Cross is experiencing an emergency blood shortage amid the lowest donor turnout in all of 2021.** Hospital demand for blood remains high, so it's critical that blood is always available.

One blood donor can make a big impact, and one appointment is all it takes.

Sign up to donate blood at First Lutheran on **Saturday, November 6, 2021, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m.** here: <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=firstlutherancarlisle> or by going to www.redcross.org and following the links under "Give Blood" to locate our drive.

Pre-registration is strongly encouraged.

"Give blood and keep the world beating."



American Red Cross

Thank you to all who donated to our August initiative for Lutheran World Relief's (LWR) Covid-19 relief efforts. We collected \$2,275 for LWR that will be used to provide PPE supplies and vaccines to people in need around the world.

Your generosity and commitment to sharing God's love is amazing!



**Remembrance of the Saints
All Saints Sunday
November 7**

Each All Saints Sunday, the church celebrates and gives thanks for the community God creates through baptism – the community of the saints, God’s beloved children, called to love and live and serve in the name of Christ. We also remember and celebrate those saints of God who have died during the past year.

This year, we will resume our tradition of displaying pictures of our beloved saints on All Saints Sunday, November 7. Simply bring to worship that morning a picture of the loved one(s) you wish to especially remember and place the picture(s) on the table by the baptismal font. You also may drop off pictures in the office the week of October 31st. For display purposes, it is helpful if pictures are in standing frames.

We give thanks for those who have meant so much to us and now rest from their labors.



**NEW MEMBER
ORIENTATION**

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5, 6-8 P.M.

All people interested in being received as new members of First Lutheran are asked to attend an evening of orientation on Sunday, December 5, from 6-8 p.m. in room 16 (lower level, across from the church office).

Whether you are a lifelong Lutheran transferring from another congregation, new to our denomination, or somewhere in between, you will find the introduction to our congregation and review of basic Lutheranism helpful. **New members will be received at both services on Sunday, December 12.**

Please contact the church office (717-249-3310) or e-mail Pastor Leber (pastor@firstlutherancarlisle.org) to let us know you will be attending the orientation and joining the mission and ministries of First Lutheran!

SANCTUARY WORK DAY - SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30

We are hoping to return our hymnals and other items to the pews later this fall. In anticipation of this (and because the sanctuary never had a deep cleaning after construction), the Property Committee is inviting you to help dust and wipe down pews, kneelers and other woodwork in the nave **next Saturday, October 30, starting at 9 a.m.** Cleaning supplies will be provided. Let’s make God’s house shine!



P.S. Folks who like to work outside are also welcome to help catch us up on some weeding around the building that morning!

Ministry Spotlight

Lutheran World Relief distributed its first quilts in 1945 to families in war-torn Europe following the Second World War. Within a decade, the ministry was reaching around the globe to villages far removed from the world's attention. Today, an average of 300,000 quilts are lovingly given worldwide each year.

First Lutheran quilters make and donate approximately 100 of those 300,000 quilts each year! *Below, quilts displayed and blessed on Sunday, October 10.* Thank you, quilters!





From our Sister Parish, Divine Redeemer Lutheran Church in San Miguel, El Salvador

Excerpts from recent communications from Pastor Belinda Fernández (*translated by Google Translate*):

“As we end the First Semester of 2021, we give our grateful thanks, on behalf of “El Divino Redentor”, and the community, for the help that you contribute to our people, it is very significant, it is of great benefit to our people with few economic resources.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING WITH WOMEN - We continue training for women to get ahead with money they get from the Sale of Handicrafts. Women work hard to learn. The results are Enterprising Women with confidence in themselves.



BAKERY

We continue to bring bread to poor families to bring relief to these homes, in their harsh reality that they live. Bread must be prepared with hygiene quality, to maintain the trust of our consumers. Now, salty bread is also being made: Chicken Empanadas, Meat Empanadas, Ham and Cheese Empanadas.”

“The Greatness of God is infinite. I am very grateful to Pastor Leber who together with you pray to our God for my healing.... I am very grateful for the beautiful expressions of concern and affection for me, God bless each one of you, who care for the most vulnerable, the most needy. I, in my illness, am resurfacing, Thanks to the Power of God and people like you, Angels, that God puts in our life for give a hand in adversity. THANK YOU again for everything. Much love for you from our El Divino Redentor Parish, my family and myself. Please continue praying for my complete recovery.”

News from Friends of Samaritan Fellowship

Dear Friends,

This again was an extraordinary year for our community and Samaritan Fellowship, a non-profit 501(c)(3), “all volunteer” ecumenical organization that has been in existence since 1958 helping families from Carlisle, South Middleton Township and parts of Middlesex Township with short-term financial needs regardless of faith or beliefs....

This community effort raised over \$18,000 in 2020 used entirely for current operations. Samaritan Fellowship interviewed 648 families in 2020, providing an average of \$605.14 to 421 households totaling \$254,763.53—the highest ever in the 63-year history of the organization. The persistent demand for financial help could not be addressed without the generous support from 17 churches, memorials, organizations, grants, trusts and 181 individuals....

...Families are getting back to work, but a backlog of economic trouble is still out there and with your help we can show that the Carlisle community truly cares. Please visit our website and see our weekly reports on Samaritanfellowship.org....

Thank you for caring and sharing!

Below are excerpts from thank you letters First Lutheran has received from some of the organizations we have been able to support in 2021... Thanks to YOU!

Lutheran World Relief — “Thank you for your recent gift of \$365.00 to Lutheran World Relief...Thank you for your generosity! We are proud to carry your love—and God’s love—to the places it’s needed most... until your love reaches every neighbor. ”

Project SHARE — “Thank you for your generous contribution of \$837.00 ... With your support, Project SHARE continues to address the ever-present issue of food insecurity in the greater Carlisle Area... Your contribution and that of others like you, help us remain on the front line in the fight against hunger—not only providing nourishment for the body—but also for the mind and the spirit. Your confidence in us, arms us with a sense of security, dignity and respect on their journey to freedom from want... Thank you for helping to awaken hope in the lives of those who struggle—Bless you.”

United Lutheran Seminary — “I am writing to you today to thank you and share my gratitude for your continuing support, not only through your financial contributions, but for your prayers and commitment to the mission of our United Lutheran Seminary learning community. Together we will continue to adapt, evolve, and move forward as we live into the next chapter of the pandemic... We continue to work diligently to train nimble and empathic leaders to serve the needs of our evolving community. We are grateful for your partnership to help us in this endeavor through your financial support, prayers, and wisdom.”

Safe Harbour — “Thank you First Evangelical Lutheran Church for your generous donation of \$315.00 to Safe Harbour... Safe Harbour is grateful for First Evangelical Lutheran Church’s generosity. You are truly making a difference in the lives of homeless and nearly homeless children and adults. ”

Habitat for Humanity — “Your recent donation supporting the mission of Cumberland Valley Habitat for Humanity in the amount of \$291.00 will help us to continue our programs that build and repair homes for families that can’t normally afford it... thanks to you and many other generous Cumberland County residents, we can proudly say we’ve been building homes for low income families over 25 years, and repairing homes for over 11 years... Again, thank you for your generous donation. Our commitment to serving those less fortunate is confirmed by you.”

Meals on Wheels — “I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of our clients, to thank you for your donation of \$442.50 to Meals on Wheels. Your thoughtfulness and generosity to this important program is greatly appreciated. All donations are used to help people directly in this community... Again, we thank you for your kindness.”



- | | |
|---|--|
| 1-Oct Gibson Koikoi | 15-Oct Joan Lewis |
| 2-Oct Ryan Henderson | 16-Oct Karen Hollen |
| 3-Oct Joe McDermond
Amelia Yocum | 17-Oct Cindy Bloser
Nancy Swartz |
| 4-Oct James Kreiser
Terri Myers | 20-Oct Courtney Ramond |
| 5-Oct Dustin Hoch | 21-Oct Nathan Peffer |
| 7-Oct Anne Franklin | 24-Oct Jessica King |
| 8-Oct Ann Roeder
Elizabeth Van Orden | 26-Oct Madelynne Staley |
| 9-Oct James Baish
Garry Carvalho | 28-Oct Melinda Howe
John Kauffman
Jill Tichnell |
| 10-Oct Les Keck
Joy Massa | 29-Oct Carol Brandt
Hunter Mulholland |
| 12-Oct Joan Inners | 30-Oct Tom Green |
| 14-Oct Alanna Appel | 31-Oct Louise Baker
Dorene Berry |

- 2-Oct Bob Baker
Gary Newton
Lyla Stone
- 4-Oct Monica Carvalho
James Kreiser
- 5-Oct Sue Shank
- 6-Oct Cindy Allgyer
- 7-Oct Annette Nickey
- 11-Oct Colton Gillingham
Lois Quigley
- 13-Oct Nina Henderson
- 14-Oct Dana Bowers
Lisa Newton
Robert Nickey
Ainslee Martin
Crystal Taylor
- 19-Oct Jane Ewing
Jimmy Callahan
- 22-Oct Steven Jumper
- 25-Oct Michelle Trefren
- 29-Oct Bryan Eshenour
Matthew Sheaffer
- 31-Oct Colton Ewing

PHONE DIRECTORY UPDATE

Betty Baker (new phone number) — 717-462-4940

To Pastor(s) and 1st Lutheran Friends:

Thank you so much for the calls, texts, cards and prayers during this very rough time in my life.

Falling off a ladder December 1st [2020] has proven to be a much bigger deal than I ever imagined! My 7-hour surgery mid August has hopefully put me on the path to walking soon.

Special thanks to Pastor Leber for assisting with our grief with the passing of my dear nephew Trevor. I have no words for the shock and sadness this has caused my family. All of your prayers do help.

Peace to all,
Kathy Brunie



- Tom & Monica Frederick (50 years) ...10/2
John & Judith Kauffman (58 years).....10/5
John & Juliet Ward (62 years).....10/31



**NOVEMBER
BIRTHDAYS**

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1-Nov.....Jeri Fitzsimons | 21-Nov ... Donald Grell |
| 3-Nov..... Rebecca Mulholland
Les Reeder | 22-Nov ... Cindy Markle |
| 6-Nov..... Bob Hollen | 23-Nov ... Brittany Weibley-D'Cruz |
| 8-Nov..... Oliver Napoli | 24-Nov ... Ian Galbraith
Merritt Reitzel |
| 9-Nov..... Nina Henderson | Shirley Smith |
| 10-Nov.... Arlyn Pettingell | Joshua Staley |
| 14-Nov.... Rich Bigelow
Alayna Rodriguez | Jamie White |
| 17-Nov.... John Bartko | 25-Nov ... Dawn Bennett
Holly Markle |
| 19-Nov.... June Egolf
Elaine Haag
Brenda Helwig | 26-Nov ... Alyssa Shaw |
| | 29-Nov ... Elaine Alvarez |
| | 30-Nov ... Ashley Zink |



- 3-NovJan Bigelow
- 4-Nov MaryGrace Harty
- 5-Nov Debra Egolf
- 7-Nov Tali Martin
- 8-Nov Elizabeth Van Orden
- 11-Nov ... Joan Inners
- 17-Nov ... Sophia Over
- 18-Nov ... Celia Christenson
Beverly Mancke
- 21-Nov ... Boni Leszczuk
- 22-Nov ... Chuck Martin
- 23-Nov ... Heidi Rugoletti
- 24-Nov ... Caroline Zink
- 27-Nov ... Lauren Engle

**Please note that the church office
will be closed on Thursday, Nov. 25,
and Friday, Nov. 26,
for the Thanksgiving holiday.**

CELEBRATING A



- Floyd & Roma Morrison (70 years).....11/2
- Robert & Rickie Cook (55 years).....11/6



**Daylight Saving Time ends
on Sunday, November 7.**
Don't forget to turn your
clocks back one hour when
you go to bed Saturday night
(November 6)!



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21 South Bedford Street
Carlisle, PA 17013
717-249-3310

www.firstlutherancarlisle.org

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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.

label

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.